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Muna insists new power rates are legitimate. PAGE 2
Chamber awards scholarships to six students. PAGE 5

CUC default prompts cut in Tinian's power

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan's primary electricity company, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., has failed to pay its debts to a company on Tinian tasked with operating the island's power plant, causing some customers on the island to lose service and sparking an outcry from local lawmakers.

In a June 4 letter to CUC chief Antonio Muna, Telesource, which operates Tinian's power plant, claimed that CUC has not paid its monthly dues on a series of

See CUC on Page 4

GRADUATION TIME

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A painted tree stump on the road leading up to Capital Hill is now wearing a graduation cap and tassel, in an obvious nod to the series of graduation ceremonies happening across the islands these past weeks. Last March the tree stump was seen wearing a Leprechaun hat, in observance of the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Funding cuts threaten anti-crime efforts

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Local crime-fighting programs are facing deep cuts in their federal funding after the White House slashed a major grant program that provides over $1 million a year to the Northern Marianas.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency, which administers the grants

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Pacific population at 14M in 2030

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

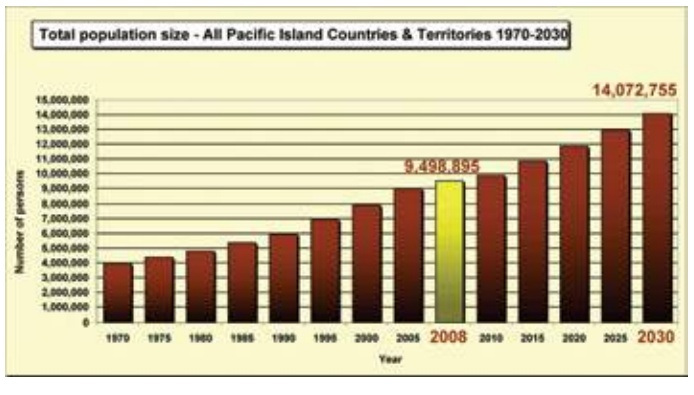
The Secretariat of the Pacific Community projects the population of Pacific islands to reach 9.5 million in 2008 and continue growing until it reaches 14 million in 2030.

The regional intergovernmental organization, in a report released yesterday, estimated the Northern Marianas' population at 62,969 this year. This is down 9 percent from the population count at the last census done in 2000.

Thousands of foreign workers left Saipan after garment factories closed due to changes in international trade quotas. Many local residents have also moved to Guam, Hawaii and mainland United States for higher paying jobs and other reasons.

"The population of the Pacific Islands will reach 9.5 million in 2008, and grows by 1.9 percent annually—which resembles

See PACIFIC on Page 4



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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
What did you do with your stimulus check?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

It's Obama
Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois laid claim to the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday night.

NATION...Page 15

Blast Suspect
Denmark's intelligence service cast blame on al-Qaida for an attack near its embassy in Pakistan.

ASIA...Page 16

Mom & Me
The Mom-and-Me fashion show was the highlight of Fiesta Resort and Spa's recent celebration of mothers.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

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Local

Muna insists new power rates are legitimate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s top official says that the agency has managed to convince lawmakers that the increased power rates have enough basis and are therefore legitimate.

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna said that they sat down with the Saipan legislative delegation's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications and had some extensive conversations with the members so they would understand what CUC is going through and how the power rates are being computed.

"So I feel at this point there's understanding that what we're doing is legitimate. That's my feeling," the executive director told the media in a news briefing.

Muna

He said he feels that PUTC members do understand where the utility agency is coming from on the electric rates.

Muna said the rates that CUC implemented when Public Law 16-2 was put into effect were based on a rate structure that has been in the books since October 2006.

"So this is nothing new. We didn't reinvent how we are going to come up with the rates," he pointed out.

Residential customers first experienced the lowest electric rates in October 2007 when Public Law 15-94 took effect, putting a cap on power rates at 17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Public Law 16-2, signed by Gov. Benigno Fitial last month, however, suspended the October 2007 rollback of power rates. This resulted in the return to high power rates.

Muna said PUTC did not contest the new rates because it's been in the book since October 2006.

"If we did change the methodology from what was in the book, then PUTC would challenge it," he added.

CUC doubled its electric fuel rates in May and increased its rates further by 3 cents per kilowatt hour this month.

Aranda, Cuerdo, Castro are GES' top 3 graduates

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School held its 6th grade graduation ceremony on Tuesday, with 110 students moving on to junior high school.

Harold Aranda, 12, was named the class Valedictorian, while Jonavelle Cuerdo, 12, was conferred the Salutatorian award.

Aranda, the son of Merwina and Roland Aranda, was also given the Presidential, 'A' Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance awards. He is an active participant in school activities such as the Spelling Bee and Mathcounts.

Cuerdo, the daughter of Zeny and Marco Cuerdo, was also given the Principal's Award and was ranked first on the school's Top Ten list. She received other awards, including the 'A' Honor Roll, Presidential, Mallard, Top 10, And Perfect Attendance.

One of the school's highest honor, the Mallard Award, meant to symbolize the school's mascot, was given to Paula R. Castro, the daughter of Cherrie and Lee Castro.

Both Cuerdo and Aranda will be attending Hopwood Junior High School next school year. Castro will be attending Mount Carmel School.

This year's graduation theme was "Taking another step towards a successful future," taken from a quote by Dorothy Jebehn.

HAROLD ARANDA
Commissioner's Award

JONAVELLE CUERDO
Principal's Award

PAULA R. CASTRO
Mallard Award

Mallard awards for the top 5 students.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Garapan Elementary School class of 2008 graduates gather at the school ground for their promotional ceremony Tuesday morning.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The graduating class chose an R. Kelly hit, *World's Greatest* as their theme song, which they sang during the ceremony.

"The kids were a good group all year, they were a nice group of kids," said GES vice principal Dale Roberts. "I hope that they are able to continue their growth with whatever school they will attend next year, and that we miss them very much already."

"They were technically advanced with doing their PowerPoint presentations, they were very, very savvy," he added.

The top 10 students were Aranda, Cuerdo, Regina Tatiano, Paula Castro, Rachelle Manlapaz, Paul Minor, Jasseline Seman, Kevin Jiro Matsuyama, Hannah Comora, Christine Tadeo, and Mary Ann Waing.

The graduating class had an after-party celebration at the Pacific Islands Club.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Garapan Elementary School valedictorian Harold Aranda, Salutatorian Jonavelle Cuerdo and Mallard award recipient Paula Castro (right).

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Pete A. winding down operations of DC office

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio is starting to wind down operations at the CNMI government's office in Washington, D.C.

Tenorio's term as the CNMI's resident representative to the nation's capital will end on Jan. 2, 2009. His position will be replaced by that of a Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, to be elected this November.

In a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Tenorio reported efforts to close the doors to the "Marianas House" in Washington.

Tenorio said he is preparing to turn over to the administration the deed to the D.C. office. He has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a closeout financial audit of the Resident Representative's Office. In addition, Tenorio's staff is now updating the inventory list for both of his Washington and Saipan offices, and that list will be submitted to OPA and the Department of Finance once completed.

Tenorio asked the governor about his preferred arrangements for the building and two government vehicles being used by the staff in Washington. One of the cars is a Toyota Sequoia purchased in 2004 and the other is a Dodge Caravan bought in 2006. The insurance for the property and the automobiles will be expiring in August 2008.

He also said operational items such as phone and DSL lines, gas and utilities, a leased postage meter, and maintenance agreements on the copier and phone lines need to be cancelled.

"These are just a few housekeeping items that need to be addressed prior to the closing of WRO," Tenorio told the governor. "As you see, it will be quite an undertaking by me and my staff. We are prepared to work with you in order to ensure a smooth transfer of the properties to the CNMI government."

The Northern Marianas congressional delegate seat was included in a recently enacted measure that requires the U.S. federal government to take over labor and immigration controls in the island group. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

'Expedite appointments to CPA board'

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios called on the administration to act fast in filling the now empty board seats at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All of the seven CPA board members have resigned. Six of them stepped down at the governor's request, while another quit to accept another appointment to the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees.

"We still think the governor should have asked for the resignations in the beginning, before he even considered taking over CPA. But that discussion is moot now. We just hope he will expeditiously act in nominating new people, so CPA can get its autonomy back," said Palacios.

The Senate must approve any nominations to the CPA board of directors.

On May 12, 2008, the governor issued an executive order placing the financially trouble ports authority under his direct control for 120 days. He also signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency.

The Legislature has overturned the reorganization order, but emergency declaration will keep CPA under the Governor's Office at least until June 11, 2008.

Fitial has said CPA will revert back to board control as soon as its financial situation has been stabilized. "I…[state] without reservation that it is my intention to take all measures to terminate the emergency declaration as soon as possible and preferably within 30 days," he said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Police arrest man wanted since 2005

Police arrested yesterday a 28-year-old man who has a bench warrant for his arrest issued three years ago for not appearing at a hearing in his criminal case.

Police served Sharp B. Ngirutoi with the bench warrant issued by Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja on April 6, 2005.

In that order, Naraja commanded the Department of Public Safety commissioner to arrest Ngirutoi and bring him to court for not appearing at the arraignment.

In the bench warrant, Naraja imposed a $2,000 cash for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Ngirutoi was taken to court yesterday afternoon. Naraja set a $2,000 unsecured bond for the defendant's temporary release. A status conference was set on June 18.

Ngirutoi and two co-defendants were charged with riot and two counts of disturbing the peace in connection with the beating of two men between Jan. 23 and 24, 2005.

Ngirutoi's co-defendants have already been sentenced after entering guilty pleas.

Ngirutoi has another pending criminal case. The trial is set for next month. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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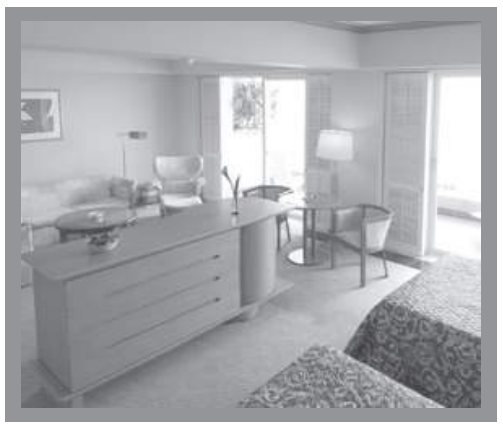

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An invitation to go hiking on Saipan

Beautify CNMI! Parks & Trails is inviting the public to participate in the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7, by going for a hike on Saipan at 9pm. Please join us for this nationwide event by hiking in appreciation of our islands hiking trails. See: http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx

The trail we chose is the Laderan Tangke Trail. The parking lot is on the left side on the way up to the old radar station. Take the road just past the old Fiesta Mall on the right, across from PauPau Beach and follow the road up. We will meet at the trailhead at 9am on Saturday morning on June 7. We will begin by having a brief talk concerning the event, followed by trail ethics, and safety.

There are two trail options: one group can take the loop trail that returns to the Laderan Tangke parking lot and trailhead, and the second group, led by Jim Benedetto, can choose to go on the trail to Bird Island Lookout and catch a ride back from there in a vehicle HHH style.

Hikers, please be prepared to have fun and enjoy the trail: Bring proper clothing, good hiking shoes, water, and sun protection.

Estimated hiking time is two hours.

Take only pictures and memories, and leave the trail in as good a condition, or better, as you found it. ***(PR)***

Vanuatu seaport gets $17 million Japan grant

PORT VILA (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Minister for Foreign Affairs George Wells and Ambassador of Japan to Vanuatu Masashi Namekawa officially signed and exchanged notes for over 1.6 billion vatu [US$17.3 million] grant for the construction and upgrade of Port Vila main wharf Monday.

The exchanging of notes was witnessed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Utilities Edward Natapei, Acting Head of the Asia Pacific Division Yvon Basil and other Government Officials.

His Excellency Namekawa acknowledged that so far Vanuatu has a favorable economic performance but still needs to tackle inevitable challenges for future sustainable economic development and Japan recognizes the importance of strengthening the capacity of the maritime in the Pacific region.

The project consists not only of the rehabilitation works at the wharf to prompt handling of cargo with higher efficiency and improved port services for the visitors but also providing facilities for securing safer operation of vessels to ensure full compliance with global maritime standards

"Each time I visit Vanuatu I am impressed by your beautiful nature and warm hospitality," he said "it is our great pleasure to have an opportunity to assist the Vanuatu Government in its effort to expand the trade and tourism market."

"I acknowledge the efficient management and appropriate maintenance of the Port upgraded Port facilities I hope this contribution will be an added milestone achievement to the people of Vanuatu and look forward to the successful completion of the project and continued strengthen relations between Japan and Vanuatu."

In expressing the deep gratitude of the Vanuatu Government and people of Vanuatu DPM Natapei said the figure is indeed huge and will go a long way in improving the Port infrastructure and solving difficulties for both tourist and cargo vessels.

"This will be the remedy for improvement of the wharf which is an eyesore for tourists because while we concentrate on improvement and development of Airport facilities as the tourist gateway we still have much to do about the wharf," he said.

He also acknowledged the provision of two tugboats which will solve the many dilemmas of tourist and cargo boats, reducing the number of big ships to allocate space and enhancing security of vessels and passengers.

"This paves the way for marketing improvement and turnaround," he said.

In a breakdown the project covers construction of concrete decks, pavement of cargo handling areas, Westside and Eastside shore protection, administration office and rehabilitation of the shed for loose cargoes.

It also includes the improvement of the lighting facilities in the Port area, lighting buoys and possession of pilot and tugboats.

The Exchange of notes for detailed design was signed on January 28 this year; this is the third phase of the project.

STIMULUS HOPEFULS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of taxpayers gather at the Division of Revenue and Taxation at the Joeten DanDan to file their income tax returns and correct deficiencies that prevent them from getting their "economic stimulus" payments yesterday.

CUC

From Page 1

$180,000 promissory notes that funded the plant's construction, maintenance and day to day services.

CUC's failure to pay, according to the letter, threatens Telesource's ability to pay its own third-party loans and buy supplies for the plant such as lubrication oil.

"Unfortunately, as of today we have not yet received payment," for the month of May, the company said. "Regretfully, Telesource is at the limit of its ability to cooperate and we must take steps to ensure payment."

Telesource is demanding payment within 15 days. The company's acting general manager, Jeffery Barr, declined to comment on what steps it would take should CUC breach the contract further.

CUC's alleged breach of contract forced Telesource last month to deny service to some residents on Tinian, according to a May 14 letter to Muna signed by senators Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Henry San Nicolas (C-Tinian).

"[T]he people on Tinian should not have to suffer for something that is not within their control," the two senators said. "Tinian has a small, fragile economy that cannot withstand any major disruption in electrical services. An unstable power utility infrastructure will further stifle existing business' struggle to survive and drive away potential investors."

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicholas also launched an inquiry into CUC's failure to pay its debts to Telesource in a May 30 letter to the utility, citing the possibility of further power outage should the situation continue.

CUC's Muna did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

As of press time, an informed source said that CUC had yet to respond to Telesource's letter and still had not paid its debts.

FUNDING

From Page 1

in the Commonwealth, said the CNMI would receive just a little over $370,000 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program this year. This is a decrease of 67 percent from the CNMI's $1.32 million allocation in 2007.

The Byrne grants help local law enforcement officials deal with violent crime and serious offenders. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance show that funding to all of the states and territories has been reduced up to 78 percent year on year, with the total allocations plunging from $305 million in 2007 to $107 million in 2008.

The White House earlier this year proposed $200 million for the program. When the Senate passed the Iraq war supplemental funding bill last month, it allotted an immediate $490 million for the Byrne grants. While the White House has not singled out the Byrne grants, it has threatened to veto the bill over add-ons that do not deal with the war in Iraq.

CJPA executive director Jerome Ierome, who sits on the board of the National Criminal Justice Association, said the NCJA hopes that President George W. Bush will approve the additional funding for the Byrne grants.

"The cuts will have an adverse impact on our law enforcement programs," he said.

In 2007, nearly one-fourth ($260,000) of the CNMI's allocation went to the Department of Public Safety. The projects funded by the Byrne grants ranged from community policing to criminal investigation.

About $200,000 was used to fund the development of a criminal justice information system, and approximately $160,000 went to drug enforcement efforts. The local courts received about $110,000.

Other agencies that benefited from the Byrne grants were the Office of Probation, Office of the Attorney General, Board of Parole, Juvenile Probation Office, Crime Stoppers, and the enforcement arm of the Department of Commerce.

PACIFIC

From Page 1

a yearly growth of 180,000 people, or about 500 people per day," said Gerald Haberkorn, manager of statistics and demography at SPC.

The total population of SPC's 22 Pacific Island member countries and territories is estimated to reach 9,498,900 people by mid-2008. The population of the Melanesian countries will be 8,310,300, the region of Polynesia will have 655,300 people, and Micronesia will include an estimated 533,300 people.

Papua New Guinea has the largest population with an estimated 6,473,900 people, followed by the Fiji Islands with approximately 839,300 people. The smallest are Tokelau, with 1,200 people, and Niue, with 1,500 people (apart from Pitcairn Island, which has 66 people).

The region's population grows by 1.9 percent annually, which is an increase of 180,000 people per year—the approximate size of the total population of Samoa.

Guam has the fastest growing populations—at a rate of 2.8 percent—because of the influx of military personnel and their dependents, as well as migration from other countries. The populations of Solomon Islands, 2.7 percent, and Vanuatu, 2.6 percent are also growing rapidly due to high birth rates.

There are also populations that are decreasing in size, such as those of Niue (–2.4 percent) due to continuous emigration of its people to New Zealand, and the Northern Mariana Islands (–1.7 percent), which suffered from the closure of many of its garment factories and a subsequent loss of employment.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has said the recent minimum wage hikes may result in more job loss and, ultimately, a further decrease in the Commonwealth's population. Critics of the U.S. government's imminent takeover of local immigration have argued that the "federalization" measure would lead to population decline, as many of the foreign workers in the Commonwealth would not qualify for U.S. work visas.

The countries with the highest proportion of children aged younger than 15 years, comprising more than 40 percent of their total population, are the Marshall Islands (41.0 percent), Samoa (40.6 percent), and Solomon Islands (40.3 percent).

The countries with the highest proportion of people aged older than 60 years, comprising more than 10 percent of their total population, are Niue (15.6 percent), Tokelau (11.4 percent), the Cook Islands (11.2 percent), New Caledonia (10.5 percent), Wallis and Futuna (10.5 percent) and Guam (10.2 percent).

Detailed figures and tables are available on the website of SPC's Statistics and Demography Programme.

Labor bars company from hiring new alien workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has sanctioned a company for failing to correct deficiencies and employing three alien workers for months without Labor's authorization.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ordered Rui Jin Trading Corp. to pay a $300 fine and barred the company from hiring new foreign workers for a period of two years.

Cody granted the requests of two workers—Qiying Jiang and Juan Zhao—to transfer to new employers.

Cody denied transfer relief to the third worker, Zheng Zin Lu, after determining that she made false testimony and submitted fake documents.

The hearing officer directed Rui Jin Trading to provide a repatriation ticket for Lu within 15 days from May 29.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lu appealed.

Cody reversed the Labor director's decision that denied the permit renewal application filed by the company for its store cashier, Jingjing Gao.

According to Labor records, Rui Jin Trading operates a retail store and Internet service in Garapan, Saipan.

The business is essentially managed by assistant manager Rui Tong Chen. Chen's wife, Jingjing Gao, works in the employer's store as a cashier.

On April 24, 2007, Rui Jin Trading filed applications to hire three more alien workers for this business. Zheng Qin Lu was hired as an accountant; Qiyang Jiang was hired as a commercial cleaner; and Juan Zhao was hired as a "merchandise displayer."

In July 2007, Labor approved conditional grants of transfer for each worker.

That same year, Labor issued deficiency notices, requesting the employer's updated financial documentation such as Business Gross Revenue Tax records and withholding tax documents for 2007.

Rui Jin Trading did not produce the documents, prompting the Labor director to deny the applications.

See LABOR on Page 6

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials pose with five of the six recipients of the Chamber scholarships during yesterday's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort.

Chamber awards scholarships to six students

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Tuesday awarded a series of academic scholarships to six deserving local students bound for college.

The six students faced stiff competition for the $1,500 scholarships—awarded based on interviews, essays and a host of academic and other criteria—after the Chamber's education committee saw a spike in applicants over last year, with 32 prospective scholars and 28 who qualified for the interview. The essay topic for each applicant was how their education will help the people of the CNMI.

"Our future is certainly bright with the scholarship recipients we have here," said Chamber secretary, Kathryn Barry, who along with the other members of the committee, detailed the winners' many accomplishments.

Among the six winners honored during the Chamber's monthly meeting at the Saipan World Resort was Leticia Cabrera, a graduate of Mount Carmel School who will attend George Washington University in the coming year.

Cabrera told the Chamber's committee in her interview that she hopes to study international relations and communications in the hope of aiding the CNMI's relations with the United States and plans to intern with government agencies while studying in Washington, DC.

Winner Angela Salas, also a graduate of Mount Carmel School, will attend Chaminade University of Honolulu, where she plans to study orthodontics and hopes to improve life on Saipan by becoming the first local female orthodontist in the CNMI.

Jeong Hyun Kwon, a math whiz who graduated from Marianas Baptist Academy and will go to the University of Illinois, wants to become an engineer to help Saipan solve its water and power dilemmas.

To improve Saipan's health, Wen Hui Ye, a graduate of the Northern Marianas Academy soon to attend the University of California at Berkeley, hopes to become the first local female pharmacist in the CNMI. She is also a burgeoning environmentalist active in beach cleanups, recycling programs and her school's environmental club.

A career in journalism is the goal of scholarship winner Caroline Lochabay, who graduated from the Saipan International School and is bound for the University of Texas at Austin. Lochabay, who petitioned her teachers to take more advanced placement classes after school hours, hopes to intern at a local newspaper and serve as a reporter in the CNMI.

Unable to attend was Anita Hofschneider: a graduate of Marianas Baptist Academy who will attend Harvard University. "I know that I will return to the CNMI because I want to give back to the community that has given me so much," she said in her essay.

Prosecutors say Miura 'a desperate man'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In opposing the granting of bail to murder suspect Kazuyoshi Miura, government lawyers argue that the Japanese national is a desperate man who poses a significant risk to the community.

Any citizen who stands between Miura and his freedom would be in grave danger, according to the Attorney General's Office.

Assistant attorneys general Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. and Mike A. Nisperos Jr. cited Miura's decades-long criminal history.

"He is a desperate man in a desperate situation," said the prosecutors in the government's nine-page opposition brief filed yesterday in the Superior Court at 4:33pm. In it, the government opposes the defendant's request to modify his bail.

Warfield and Nisperos said that under CNMI law, Miura is not allowed to post bail because he is being extradited to answer the charges of special circumstances murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

These charges, they said, are punishable by life imprisonment or death under the laws of the State of California.

"Furthermore, even if Miura were not statutorily prohibited bail, he would not be entitled to bail under the circumstances because he poses a significant risk to the community and a substantial flight risk," the prosecutors said.

In asserting that the defendant is a danger to the CNMI community, the prosecutors said that Miura has a felony criminal history that spans many decades.

The government lawyers noted that in addition to the premeditated murder charge and conspiracy to commit murder charge that California now seeks extradition for, Miura has a documented history of convicted felonious activity in Japan, including multiple arson, multiple thefts, forgery of an official document and possession of unlawful weapons.

Attaching an affidavit of a California detective in support of the complaint for Miura's extradition, the prosecutors narrated how the defendant plotted the murder of his wife, Kazumi, in November 1981 to collect insurance benefits.

"There is no justification to suffer the danger he poses to the people of the Commonwealth if he is released from custody," the prosecutors said.

As to the issue of flight risk, the prosecutors said it is plausible for Miura to seek fraudulent exit papers, commission another to unlawfully take him by plane or boat to another jurisdiction, or undertake some other means to exit the Commonwealth.

"If he would kill for money, can there be any doubt that he would run for freedom?" the lawyers asked.

The prosecutors said that Miura is facing death or life imprisonment in California.

"If he is given any chance to escape that fate, it is reasonable to believe he will take it," they added.

In Miura's motion for bail modification, his lawyer argued that the businessman should be released temporarily because a defendant in a murder case is entitled to bail in the CNMI and in California.

Attorney Bruce Berline, one of Miura's lawyers, argued that contrary to the prosecution's assertion in the last hearing, a person charged with murder and even murder in the first degree in the CNMI, is entitled to a bail hearing and may be released on bail.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona will hear the motion tomorrow, Friday, at 2pm.

Miura, 60, was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

17 graduate from GCA Kindergarten

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy held a promotional ceremony for its Kindergarten class on May 27, with Catheryn Leila Arroyo and Autumn Justyne Camacho leading the 17 members of the Class of 2008.

Arroyo, 5, the daughter of Raymond and Janet Arroyo, was named the Valedictorian.

"I can tell you that she has worked very hard for it. She always comes home after school and does her homework by herself independently," said Raymond.

CATHERYN LEILA ARROYO
Valedictorian

AUTUMN JUSTYNE CAMACHO
Salutatorian

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Grace Christian Academy Kindergarten graduates stand for the closing number during the graduation ceremony at the GCA auditorium.

Catheryn, who wants to be a teacher in the future, was also an Eagle Award nominee.

Last year, Catheryn received honors for K-4. She got one of the four character awards, the Joseph Servant Award, and a trophy for consistently being on the Principal's List.

"We knew all along that she does well in school as she keeps getting an 'A' on her report cards, but it was only on the day of the graduation when we were surprised that she was the Valedictorian," said Janet.

Autumn Justyne Camacho, 6, was recognized as the Salutatorian during the promotional ceremony.

Autumn, 6, is the daughter of Amparo Qutugua, a teacher at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, and Chris Camacho, an analyst at the Office of the Public Auditor.

"I am very proud of her, she always does her homework. And I usually just double check it," said Amparo. "She is also very interested in arts and craft. Everyday she is always eager to learn and read."

Autumn's parents plan to have her continue her studies at either Grace Christian or GTC Elementary School.

"She didn't really realize the significance of her award," Autumn's mother laughed. "She calls it 'the big trophy.'"

Autumn says wants to be a fourth-grade teacher when she grows up.

Besides Catheryn and Autumn, other students were also presented awards, including Martin Pangelinan who was conferred the Eagle Award.

The graduating class also performed the song, "We Want to See Jesus Lifted High", and did some dances and songs, to the delight of a crowd up to 50 composed mostly of parents, teachers, and school staff.

With their certificates of completion safe under their belt, the class will now move to first grade.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 08-031

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Renovation of the Koblerville Elementary School Bilingual Classroom**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, for a non-refundable fee of $3.25, located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-031" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-031, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer

LABOR

From Page 5

The company and the four workers appealed.

In his order, Cody said that, at the hearing, the employer offered no reasonable excuse for its failure to provide the financial documents in 2007 when the Labor Processing Section requested the information.

However, Cody said, the employer produced at the hearing its BGRT records for a limited portion of 2007.

Cody said the evidence shows that Rui Jin Trading lacked sufficient funds in 2007 to pay the wages for each of these appellant-workers.

Additionally, the hearing officer said, the testimony established that this employer does not need the services of a full-time accountant, commercial cleaner or merchandise displayer.

He said the testimony also established that Lu had fabricated her work history as an accountant.

"Lu entered the CNMI as a masseuse and at that time, never mentioned that she had any prior education or experience as an accountant," he noted.

Under questioning, Cody said, Lu was not able to define even basic accounting principles such as liabilities or capital gains.

"The testimony supports a finding that Lu perpetrated a fraud in asserting that she is a qualified accountant," he said.

Finally, Cody said, all three transfer employees testified that they began working for Rui Jin Trading in April 2007, even though their conditional grants were not approved until July 10, 2007.

"In employing these workers without authorization or permission for three months, the employer violated the Nonresident Workers Act," he said.

360 restaurant gives public radio a boost

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

The 360 restaurant, Saipan's only revolving eatery, earlier this month raised thousands of dollars for the island's struggling public radio station.

The fundraiser last week raked in roughly between $10,000 and $15,000 for KRNM, which is operated by Northern Marianas College, according to 360's restaurateur Rick Jones.

The restaurant, now open for the past six months, provided 20 percent of its earnings Thursday night for the station, which has recently faced some funding shortfalls, in addition to several private donations it collected.

"It's a great station and we were happy to help," Jones said. "We're going to start trying to do these events once a month. I'd like to do something for schools in general."

One of those new events will include an art show in the coming weeks, with the restaurant showcasing a host of Japanese woodcut prints owned by a local collector. The prints are famous in the art world, Jones said, noting that they were popular with renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Wright "when he would design a house for someone, he insisted that they have a place for at least three of them in their home," Jones said. "They're really amazing prints and the wall space we have really kind of lends itself to showing them."

The restaurant is also developing some new items for its menu, though Jones is keeping those new recipes under wraps for now as he works with his staff.

"It's kind of a constant process," Jones said. "We're always trying to tweak things or play with new ingredients."

The new menu selections will also hopefully draw more tourists, the lifeblood of the restaurant's clientele, to the 360, Jones said, despite Saipan's recent decline in business.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tasia Bocago, left, and Joaquin Lizama pose with their certificates after MVA's Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 30, 2008.

MVA honors outstanding employees for this year

The Marianas Visitors Authority held its Employee Recognition Awards ceremony on May 30 to recognize their Employee of the Year, Leadership of the Year and employees who have been with MVA for the last 10 and 15 years.

Tasia S. Bocago, currently a clerk for the Personnel & Administration Division, took home the Employee of the Year award for MVA. Bocago has earned Employee of the Quarter award twice since she started at MVA in August 2005. Bocago was recognized for her initiative to assist others, her willingness to learn new tasks and her overall performance as a true team player.

Joaquin "Jack" C. Lizama, the acting chief accountant for the Accounting Division of MVA, received the Leadership Award this year. This is his second time to receive this award. Previously, Lizama received this award in 2005. Lizama has been with the MVA for 19 years and was recognized for his desire to ensure that his work is performed with efficiency and effectiveness. He was also recognized for his reliability, dependability and his team player attitude.

MVA employees who were recognized for 10 years of outstanding service with MVA were John Baza from MVA Tinian and Vicente Mangloña from MVA Rota. The employee with 15 years of service was Thelma F. Boyer of MVA Saipan.

"Our employee recognition program is designed to recognize employees who have demonstrated exceptional service not only to MVA but to our CNMI government as well. Everyone's hard work and dedication contribute to the overall success of MVA," said MVA Personnel manager Polly Deleon Guerrero.

"This type of recognition helps us encourage exceptional professionalism and employee morale. MVA values its human resources and would like to see each person grow and develop not just professionally, but also as an individual," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

MVA ensures that their recognition program serves as an incentive for individual motivation toward providing quality service, increasing productivity, job knowledge and skills. Their program is designed to recognize outstanding performance and employees' contribution toward meeting MVA's goals and objectives. All employees honored received a plaque of appreciation. ***(MVA)***

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ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT, CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNEIDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X Defendants,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179 **SUMMONS**

TO: ANA MARIA B. HOFSHCNEIDER, Defendant.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint attached hereto, within Twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, at P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950 immediately after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the CNMI Superior Court.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the CNMI Superior Court, whose office is located on the first floor of the Guma Husticia Bldg., Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan. This may be done by you or your attorney, but it is not necessary for you to appear personally unless you are notified to do so in the future.

If you fail to file an Answer within the time specified above, the allegations of the Complaints will be deemed admitted and the Court will enter a default judgement against you.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2006.

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Nagoya TV to film on Saipan

Nagoya TV will be filming a program called "Wayaya Aha!" on Saipan from June 8 to 11. This TV program usually features new trends and information, including travel, food, fashion, cooking, new products, movies and fortune telling. There is a popular giveaway corner in the program that viewers can participate in with their cellular phones.

Some 232,371 households subscribe to Nagoya TV with a target audience of males and females in the 20-60 age groups. The program will air on June 21 from 10:55am to 11:45am. The estimated exposure value is $152,380.

The TV crew will film local tourist attractions including Managaha, Mt. Tapochao, the Grotto and Banzai Cliff. They will also be filming in Garapan. Hotels participating in the filming include Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency and Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"Nagoya is an important inbound market for the CNMI from Japan," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We look forward to having the island of Saipan featured on Nagoya TV later this month." ***(MVA)***

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Pastor Bud Carroll leaving Saipan

Rev. Ewing W. Carroll Jr., more popularly known as Pastor Bud, is leaving Saipan this week to return to Hong Kong. He retired last July as pastor of Immanuel United Methodist Church. He will be living on Lamma Island, a 2.5 square mile Mediterranean-like island of 6,000 residents; no roads or motorized vehicles and almost as many boonie dogs as on Saipan.

Pastor Bud and his wife Millie came to Saipan in July 2003 to serve at IUMC. When asked for some of the highlights of his time there, Pastor Bud replied, "The weekly average worship attendance grew from 20 to 65; further development of children's Sunday school, including specialized training of teachers; continued outreach of United Methodist Women; organization of a United Methodist Men's group; and successful negotiations with the CNMI government to lease the Chalan Kanoa Community Center for worship and community outreach."

As for the special activities he is most proud of, Pastor Bud noted, "When Millie Carroll represented IUMC at the CNMI legislative hearings on same-sex marriage. The United Methodist Church's motto is 'Open Hands, Open Hearts and Open Doors.' In the face of considerable religious hostility, Millie reminded listeners that God doesn't make mistakes. People's sexuality comes by virtue of God's

Carroll

creative. Our church openly welcomes people of all sexual orientations. We believe faithfulness in a marital relationship is more important than gender."

Pastor Bud continued, "For many churches, taking such a stance would have meant loss of membership. However, IUMC gained members because of our openness to people of varied diversities. Gothic churches were built to look like a ship. Well, the church as people resides in God's boat, not our own and God wants everyone to get aboard!"

Like many Saipan churches, IUMC's members come from many nationalities. Prior to his retirement Pastor Bud noted IUMC's participants included people from China, Japan, Korea, Fiji, Canada, Philippines, Thailand and the U.S.

IUMC was founded in the mid-1990s to provide worship and witness to people from the more traditional Protestant mainline churches. The church has always maintained a strong combination of worship, evangelism and social service. IUMC's United Methodist Women are well known for their periodic bazaars, with proceeds going to purchase layette sets for new mothers. IUMC has also generously responded to emergency needs for survivors of earthquakes, typhoons and other natural disasters. Previously the church's annual Christmas offering helped provide scholarships for children from China's poor mountainous regions; relief for children survivors of natural disasters in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malawi; and physical, spiritual and emotional support for children survivors of the war in Iraq.

During his time on island Pastor Bud, himself a cancer survivor, was an active member of the Commonwealth Cancer Association. He was one of several men living in the CNMI to participate in a video regarding prostate cancer. He also previously served as chair of the Long Term Recovery Committee, a group of government, religious and other community leaders working to provide emergency assistance for persons not qualified for government disaster relief and assistance.

A native of Florida, Pastor Bud and his former wife Millie Carroll spent 25 years as United Methodist missionaries in Hong Kong. He also served 12 years as a mission secretary with his denomination's General Board of Global Ministries. During that time he was director of The United Methodist China Program and coordinated United Methodism's involvement in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

While sad to be leaving, he said, "I have loved my work here, the beauty of the people and wonderful weather, and the more laid-back friendly island atmosphere."

He added, "These are truly difficult times. However I believe that gradually, as people strive to work together, the CNMI will be a stronger, more resilient, caring and loving community of diverse people."

Any regrets? "Yes. A public peeve: I wish the current administration would be more proactive in promoting legislation to forbid smoking in public places, especially restaurants. Like everyone else, I wish we could enjoy better medical facilities; a healthier economic situation; lower power and gasoline rates; and a more reliable power supply." Asked about recent federal legislation affecting the CNMI, Pastor Bud noted," I welcome it! But I'm not sure Washington is any wiser or smarter than the people of the CNMI. However the legislation means the days of narrow nepotism and cronyism are over. People will now have to secure employment based more on what they know instead of who they know in high-ranking places."

Pastor Bud also expressed deep appreciation for the many foreign contract workers who continue to contribute so much to the development of the CNMI. He also expressed appreciation for the growing number of young people interested in volunteer and community service. 'We are blessed to have so many youth, both local and foreign, who are finding joy and satisfaction in helping others."

Asked about religion in the CNMI, Pastor Bud replied, "While predominately a Catholic Island, Saipan enjoys a diversity of religious practices. No one religion should have more favored status. In addition to the majority Catholic population, there are numerous and differing Protestant churches as well as faithful adherents of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Baha'i faith."

"All these," he noted, "add to the rich rainbow flavor of life in our part of Micronesia."

Interested persons may communicate with Pastor Bud at budcarroll@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

A. Samoa arts festival is $800,000 short

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Pacific Arts Festival executive director says they still need about 800,000 US dollars to host the event despite several new donations.

This year's festival will take place in American Samoa from July 20 until August 2nd and 24 nations have confirmed their attendance.

The festival's budget is just over US$4 million, with the American Samoan government providing US$2.5 million, while individuals and businesses have also made contributions.

But Simona Lauti says they have to raise more money.

"We're still running short but less than a million dollars. We have a lot of donations that have been contributed locally that has reduced the million dollars down to less than a million. I'm pretty sure it's about 800 000 or somewhere around there."

Simona Lauti says they have asked the American Samoan government for more funding.

House OKs public schools funding

The House of Representatives has approved the appropriation of nearly $300,000 to the public school projects.

The House members voted unanimously in support of legislation allowing the Public School System to use $291,200 in proceeds from its general obligation bond for capital improvement projects at the schools.

The bill would also allow PSS to use any other funds it may realize at the closure of the indenture trust agreement in four months.

The bill will become law once approved by the Senate and approved by the governor.

PSS is in the process of implementing a seven-year capital improvement plan, which includes new classrooms, new facilities, and repair. Encompassing PSS' high priority school facility needs from school year 2004-05 to school year 2011-12, the CIP plan was drafted in anticipation of continued increase in student population.

Last month, Education Commissioner David M. Borja reported that $300,000 from PSS bond with the Bank of New York Trust Company is now available for appropriation.

Another $1.37 million will be realized from the surplus account on Oct. 1, 2008, but the money is allocated for the final payment to the bondholders. Some $2.1 million is also remaining in the projects account, but these funds are already appropriated to pay for the ongoing projects on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan.

About $230,000 are still in the rebates accounts, and they will be available 30 days after the final payment to the bondholders. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

6.2 quake shakes Solomon Islands

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 has shaken Solomon Islands but there are no immediate reports of damage and a tsunami alert has not been issued.

The quake struck early this morning on San Cristobal island, 184 kilometers southeast of the capital Honiara, at a depth of 89 kilometers

An 8.0-magnitude earthquake in the western Solomons in April last year triggered a tsunami that killed more than 50 people and displaced thousands.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 5, 2000

Fr. Bradley collapses; dies

Catholic Priest Gary Bradley succumbed to a heart attack yesterday morning while saying mass at Kristo Rai Parish in front of shocked parishioners. He was 53. Bishop Tomas Camacho who rushed to the hospital and check on his Vicar General, saw how doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center worked hard to revive Fr. Bradley at the emergency room. He was pronounced dead past 7:00 a.m.

CDA to float $60-M bond this month

The Commonwealth Development Authority is anticipating to finally float the $60-million municipal bond by the end of the month, a development that has the promise to hasten pending major infrastructure projects and increase business activities on the island. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada said CDA's bond underwriters in the mainland United States are already in the process of obtaining the needed rating before the bond is floated in the open market.

Telecom bill clears House

After being shelved for nearly three years, the proposed regulatory body for the telecommunications sector in the CNMI passed the House of Representatives on Friday in a split vote hailed by its proponents as a step towards attracting other potential investors. Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, author of HB 12-6 and chair of the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, slammed opposition to the legislation, noting that other telecom firms may be encouraged to come in and break the monopoly long held by Micronesian Telephone Corporation.

JUNE 5, 2001

Controversial Article 12: Cost construction industry $4B

The construction industry and the Commonwealth in general has lost between $3-$4 billion in investments since 1985 when the debate about foreigners owning land was first raised under Article 12. Contractor's Association Chairman Richard J. Szumiel said the $3 billion to $4 billion represents money lost from investors who were turned off when lawsuits started appearing in the mid-1980s questioning leases entered into by foreigners.

Straub complained of nonpayment

Patients sent to Straub Clinic and Hospital have been turned away for failure by the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services here to pay for services under an agreed arrangement. Last week, a Medicaid patient was turned away by Straub management and consequently requested Queen's Medical Center to take charge and treat the patient. Straub reportedly refused to provide medical treatment to the Medicaid approved patient unless payments are made upfront prior to remderomg medical services.

Positive job outlook for 2001 graduates

Jobs await fresh high school graduates who are patient and determined enough to earn a place in the local workforce. Employment Services Division Director Alfred A. Pangelinan made the assurance yesterday on the heels of another busy job-hunting period this graduation season.

JUNE 5, 2002

CPA sues Tinian Shipping

Barely bouncing back from a brief period of disrupted ferry services following an arrest order issued by the federal court less than two weeks ago, the embattled Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc. received yet another blow, this time, through a civil lawsuit initiated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The public corporation, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, lodged a $1.15 million suit against the troubled shipping company on grounds of nonpayment of passenger and dockage fees pursuant to a lease agreement that CPA and TSTI entered into last June 1, 1996.

Pete A. lobbies for changes in minimum wage legislation

CNMI Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio is strongly lobbying for changes in the minimum wage legislation now pending in the U.S. Congress. Prior to the U.S. Congress' Memorial Day recess, Democrats from both the House of Representatives and the Senate introduced identical bills to increase the U.S. minimum wage.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

HOW COULD AN INSIDER WRITE A SCATHING TELL-ALL BOOK, BUT NEVER OPPOSE OUR POLICIES WHILE HE WORKED HERE?
WHAT HAPPENED BY SCOTT McCLELLAN
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EDITORIAL

A greener revolution

World leaders assemble in Rome Tuesday for a three-day summit on the global food crisis. The sense of urgency surrounding the meeting is appropriate. With commodity prices at their highest levels in three decades, some 100 million people who had been lifted out of chronic poverty are at risk of slipping back. Famine once again threatens vulnerable countries such as North Korea. Yet, massive as it is, the short-term problem of getting food relief into the hands of the hungry is probably the simplest item on the summit agenda. Much more complex is the long-term task of restoring the world's ability to feed itself at widely affordable prices.

Expect to hear plenty of criticism of the United States and Europe for subsidizing the diversion of their crops into the production of ethanol and other biofuels. No doubt these wasteful policies have contributed to the spike in grain prices. So have bans on exports by such large food producers as India. A successful summit would produce a promise from all sides to think more about the global effects of their policies. But even then, the problem of raising agricultural productivity would remain.

Until relatively recently, producing more food was not thought to be much of a problem. Through the intensive use of high-yield crop strains, fertilizer and irrigation, the "green revolution" of the 1960s and '70s enabled many formerly food-importing countries, especially in Asia, to feed themselves and, eventually, to export surpluses. A long decline in real food prices, beginning in the '70s and ending around the turn of the century, was the result. But annual global agricultural productivity growth, which averaged 2 percent between 1970 and 1990, fell to 1.1 percent over the past 17 years. Now the world is actually running down its grain stocks.

During the era of cheap and abundant food, Western donors and multilateral aid organizations neglected agricultural research and rural development in favor of more fashionable development trends. This made perverse economic sense, since returns on rural investment were likely to be modest as long as food prices remained low. Today's higher prices, however, probably will persist even if ethanol and export bans disappear. This creates an opportunity as well as a need for a new surge in agricultural investment. It should be led by the United States and other industrialized countries, and it should be focused on the region—sub-Saharan Africa—where the greatest untapped potential lies, and which has so far benefited least from the green revolution. A Zambian farmer, for example, produces only about a third as much corn per acre as his Chinese counterpart. Because of higher oil prices, it will be expensive to depend heavily on fertilizer, machinery and irrigation. That means that the next green revolution must be "greener" than the first; it must achieve higher production through the wisest possible application of scarce resources. For all the misery caused by higher food prices now, they hold out the promise of greater food security in the future, if the world's leaders seize the moment.

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I've got to get this off my chest before I explode!

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

The headline above is considered one of the top headlines of all time for getting someone's attention to read an article. It seems appropriate, considering the several recent events that have grabbed the attention of people living in the CNMI and pushed their patience to the limit. The obvious top headline is the very visible CUC, but they are only representative of the endemic problems that the CNMI faces now and in the future. There are many, many other government entities that have contributed to the cumulative economic and ethical erosion that has created the "perfect storm" that is currently buffeting the citizens around.

Multiple power outages each day are becoming not only common, but also expected from the defunct CUC. However, the real source of the problem is not the dilapidated generators – they are the symptom of the real cause. A lawyer involved in a lawsuit against CUC revealed that financial data was subpoenaed from the organization and they could not readily provide the needed data. We're talking about accounts receivable, accounts payable, and other financial data that are essential for any organization to effectively manage not only its finances, but to make good decisions.

I was dumbfounded to learn about the financial quagmire that ensnares CUC. If the information is accurate, there should be an independent audit conducted to determine the true financial situation of the institution. How in the world can they justify their rate increases without backing it up with hard financial data?

This sends up multiple red flags that indicate gross negligence, incompetence, or corruption; or a combination of all three. If a few individuals are profiting at the expense and suffering of the masses they should be identified and routed out for the public to take action.

In a situation where the source of the problem is from within CUC, then more money will only provide temporary relief because there would be Band-Aid repairs and replacements, while a lot of the money would be distributed to cronies or wasted on ineffective practices and equipment.

Concerned individuals are mobilizing to assess their rights and expectations of how much public accountability a public utility should be required to share with its utility users—which is practically every person on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. If you're so frustrated that you feel like you're going to explode, then pay attention to the media in the next couple of weeks to learn how you can get involved to help make real changes for the better.

On a different subject, but just as disappointing, is the debacle with the "stimulus" checks that were supposed to be sent out to EVERYONE last week. As you know, less than half of the people received their checks, and the other half were just recently told that because of discrepancies, their checks would be held hostage until they cleared the matter with the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

If you are one of the fortunate individuals to receive a full payment of your check, then you probably haven't experienced the clog at Rev & Tax that only exacerbates the raw nerves of people who anticipated the needed check, but are victims of the latest CNMI scam to hold onto their Federal money for as long as possible.

In our situation, when we did not receive the check on Friday, we tried to give them the benefit of the doubt by thinking they were processing the checks alphabetically, and therefore we would get our check in the next batch. When we receive the letter from Rev & Tax on Tuesday, they claimed to identify a $10.50 discrepancy on our return. We contacted our tax preparer, who examined the documents and told us that the problem was Rev & Tax's. Rev & Tax had made an error in their review and was holding over $2,000 of federal money for an imagined $10.50 mistake they made.

This brings up several questions: Why did they wait until after stimulus checks were issued to send a letter to individuals? If a "problem" was identified earlier, why couldn't they have sent a letter to individuals to clear up the matter prior to sending the checks? Can they legally hold federal money hostage to clear up discrepancies on the CNMI tax return?

We could go on and on with numerous other examples of negligence, incompetence, or corruption that plagues the citizens of the CNMI and has contributed to the current quality of life that has sent many packing. It's time that we expect more transparency and accountability from those that are expected to serve our best interests. If you're one who feels like you have to get things off your chest before you explode, then pay attention to initiatives and learn how you can get involved to make the CNMI a better place for better times.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reagan's choice: From 1976, a question for Obama, Clinton

By LOU CANNON
Special to The Washington Post

Lou Cannon covered the 1976 presidential campaign for The Post*. He has written several books on Ronald Reagan and, most recently, co-authored* Reagan's Disciple: George W. Bush's Troubled Quest for a Presidential Legacy with his son Carl M. Cannon.

Gerald Ford went to his grave believing that Ronald Reagan's challenge for the Republican presidential nomination cost him the White House in 1976. In truth, Reagan sharpened Ford as a candidate, much as Hillary Clinton's campaign has sharpened Barack Obama in 2008. What damaged Ford in his effort to overtake Democrat Jimmy Carter was not what Reagan did to him in the spring of 1976 but what he failed to do in the fall. Similarly, the question now is what role Clinton will play after Obama has formally secured the nomination.

The roller-coaster nature of this year's marathon contest for the Democratic nomination has many echoes of the GOP race of 1976. While Ford had the advantage of incumbency, he was to the GOP's conservative wing an accidental president who held the office only because Richard Nixon had been forced to resign. These conservatives favored Reagan, who was expected to win the first primary, in New Hampshire. But Ford upset Reagan, as Obama upset Clinton in this year's Iowa caucuses, and he parlayed his victory into a string of primary wins. Ford's nomination seemed assured until Reagan climbed off the mat and won the North Carolina primary. That began a protracted struggle, as Clinton's comeback win in New Hampshire did in this year's Democratic race. Reagan won a slew of primaries in important states, as Clinton has, without ever quite catching Ford, who was nominated at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City by little more than a hundred votes.

By the time he became the nominee, Ford was a better candidate than he would have been without the Reagan challenge, much as Obama has benefited from Clinton's challenge. In 1976, Ford had never run for office beyond his Grand Rapids congressional district; while an estimable human being and an underrated president, he was a plodding campaigner and often a dreadful public speaker. His speechwriters once tried to improve his delivery by writing the words "WITH EMPHASIS" in the margin of his text. Ford, denouncing something or other as "nonsense," incorporated the notes into his speech and told a startled audience: "I say to you this is nonsense with emphasis!"

More significantly, Reagan's challenge forced Ford to dismiss an inept campaign manager and bring in such able political operatives as Stuart K. Spencer, the foremost Republican strategist, and James A. Baker, later a major player in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations. They teamed with pollster Robert Teeter and Ford's chief of staff, Dick Cheney, to organize an effective campaign. Ford, his stump skills honed by Reagan, bested Carter in their first debate on domestic issues. In the second debate, Ford made a celebrated gaffe, claiming that Poland was not dominated by the Soviet Union, which broke his momentum. Even so, Ford rallied from a 19-point deficit at convention time to lose to Carter by less than 2 percentage points.

Afterward, Ford complained, correctly, that Reagan did not help him sufficiently in the fall. Reagan had endorsed the ticket, but only grudgingly. Ford, in his memoirs, described Reagan's performance in their only joint appearance as "lukewarm"; in fact, having attended this event in Beverly Hills, I think this overstated the temperature. During the general election battle, Ford asked Reagan to campaign for him in four Southern states; Reagan pleaded prior commitments. In one of those states, Mississippi, Carter won by fewer than 15,000 votes. It's possible that Reagan, who was popular there, might have made the difference. More involvement by Reagan would at a minimum have freed Ford from spending as much time as he did in Carter's home region and allowed him to campaign more in Ohio, which he lost by a little more than 11,000 votes. If Ford had carried Ohio and Mississippi, he would have been elected.

While many in Ford's inner circle remained bitter about the role Reagan played, Ford, with a characteristic generosity of spirit, forgave Reagan and worked tirelessly for his election in 1980. When I asked why he was doing so much, Ford said simply that Reagan would be a better president than Carter. He never deviated from this view, even though he and Carter subsequently became close friends.

Barack Obama will soon become the presumptive Democratic nominee, and there is little doubt that Hillary Clinton will endorse him. The big question is whether she will campaign hard for Obama among constituencies where she can help him. Put another way: Will she choose to be Ronald Reagan in 1976 or Gerald Ford in 1980?

The outcome of the election could depend on the answer.

No swans in this sewer

By TIM RUTTEN
© 2008, Los Angeles Times

Rutten is a Times *columnist. E-mail him at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.*

A little more than 50 years ago, George C. Marshall, the greatest American general and statesman since George Washington, turned down an offer to write his memoirs for a national magazine because, he said, it was unseemly to profit from a life of public service.

The Saturday Evening Post offered Marshall $1 million for his story at a time when $1 million was real money. Military historians since have learned that at the moment Marshall declined the Post's offer, he and his wife had precisely $1,300 in the bank.

Four years ago, Tommy Franks, the general who led the American invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, took a different approach. Franks agreed to publish his memoirs—earning, by most estimates, well into seven figures—at a time when the wars he had overseen still were being fought and the troops he had commanded still were in harm's way.

Then, a month ago, retired Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, who commanded U.S. forces in Iraq during the Abu Ghraib scandal, published his account of that service, accusing President Bush and his advisers of "gross incompetence and dereliction of duty" for their handling of the Iraq war. In the meantime, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III has published his own self-justifying account of his disastrous term as American proconsul in Baghdad.

From Marshall's refusal to this sorry trio's eager rush to settle scores and profit handsomely is a gap that demands to be measured in more than decades. Their three examples are useful because they demonstrate just how far the tell-all impulse has taken us. The well-lived 21st century American life, it seems, is the one most lucratively monetized.

But there's more than just profit motive at work in the flood of revelatory, score-settling memoirs generated by the Bush administration. By rough estimate, about a dozen former presidential aides—from Cabinet secretaries to government lawyers to speechwriters to the guy who ran faith-based initiatives—have published insider memoirs expressing various degrees of disappointment, disgruntlement and downright disgust with the White House and its policies. Everyone who leaves this administration seems to depart with a half-finished manuscript under his or her arm and a publisher panting to help out.

The runaway success last week of former White House press secretary Scott McClellan's "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception" is bound to whet publishers' appetite for more of the same, because there's nothing the typical American book editor likes more than an idea that's already made somebody else money.

But here's a word of caution for those administration officials hard at work on their book proposals: Eager as readers and reporters seem to be for every scrap of indiscretion, there's an equally strong impulse to dislike—or at least disdain—the authors of these memoirs, one that extends beyond predictable denials by the dwindling band of Bush loyalists and pro-war, pro-torture, pro-government secrecy commentators.

NBC's Matt Lauer, for example, labeled McClellan "a pariah."

The New York Times' editorial page mocked the entire genre: "There are several kinds of Washington memoirs: `I Reveal the Honest Truth,' a kiss-up-and-tell designed to settle scores (nod to honesty optional). `I Was There at the Start,' designed to make the author appear to be the linchpin of history. And, most tedious: `I Knew It Was a Terrible Mistake, but I Didn't Mention It Until I Got a Book Contract.' "

True to type, the Wall Street Journal's editorial page detected an intricate left-wing conspiracy to discredit John McCain's stance on the war: "We'd merely note that (McClellan's) publisher is PublicAffairs, an imprint founded by left-wing editor Peter Osnos and which has published six books by George Soros," the Journal wrote. "PublicAffairs is owned by Perseus Books, which is owned by Perseus LLC, a merchant bank whose board includes Democrats Richard Holbrooke and Jim Johnson, who is now doing Barack Obama's vice presidential vetting. One of Perseus' investment funds, Perseus-Soros Biopharmaceutical, is co-managed with Mr. Soros."

You might want to read that one twice.

In fact, all of the Bush refugee memoirs share a unifying theme, one familiar to anyone who's spent much time reporting on crimes or courts. All these books bear the imprint of what might be called "the snitch sensibility." Whether they're ratting out their partner in a convenience store robbery or their bosses in an elaborate conspiracy to game an international commodities market, all snitches speak from a distinctive perspective.

They were always there to see the crimes that occurred, but no matter how bad things got, they never were the worst person in the room, and none of it was ever their idea. Veteran prosecutors have a term to describe criminal cases in which the snitch, the accused and the victim are all crooks who've fallen out with one another. "There are," they say, "no swans in a sewer."

Some might say that pretty well describes the Bush White House.

Of course, the Bush administration is not the first to have spawned insider memoirs. Officials of earlier administrations, including Arthur Schlesinger, John Ehrlichman, William Safire, Peggy Noonan, Colin Powell, George Stephanopoulos, Robert Reich and many, many others have told their stories as well. Some of this urge to publish represents the general devaluing of privacy, privilege and loyalty throughout American society. Some stems from a simple desire to make some money. A multimillion-dollar book deal has become a virtual perquisite of ex-presidents, and many of their aides see no reason not to get a taste for themselves—or to pre-empt criticism from a former boss.

But the Bush White House has produced more tell-all authors than most, and it might be because those who have served in it know they've participated in an administration whose failures are likely to be ranked alongside those of Hoover and Buchanan.

Who wouldn't want to tell their side of that story—or at least get their alibi down on paper?

Enter the NINJA: A subprime glossary

By KATHLEEN DAY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The subprime mess was fueled by so many cockamamie practices that the lending industry had to invent a lexicon for them. A sampling of the new vocabulary:

LIAR LOANS
Loans to borrowers who verify their own income, which is often inflated, either by the loan originator (to assure that the loan will be approved) or by the borrower.

NINJA LOANS
Loans that require No Income, No Job and no Asset verification.

NO DOC LOANS
See NINJA loans.

REVERSE REDLINING
Targeting lower-income, less financially savvy communities—once the objects of redlining—for higher-priced loans.

EQUITY STRIPPING
Refinancing borrowers over and over again into ever-larger loans from which lenders pay themselves bigger and bigger fees, including pre-payment penalties. Many of today's distressed borrowers find that even though they paid their mortgages on time for several years, they built no equity: It was sucked out in fees with each new loan.

BEING UNDERWATER
Stuck with a mortgage that's greater than the value of one's house, which has deflated with the bursting of the housing bubble.

JINGLE MAIL
House keys left in the mailbox by owners who walk away from their mortgages and allow the bank to repossess their homes before their credit goes bad and hurts their ability to rent. This phenomenon may not be happening yet, but many worry that we'll soon be hearing those jingling sounds in neighborhoods nationwide.

Day, a former Washington Post *reporter, is spokeswoman for the nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending.*

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°

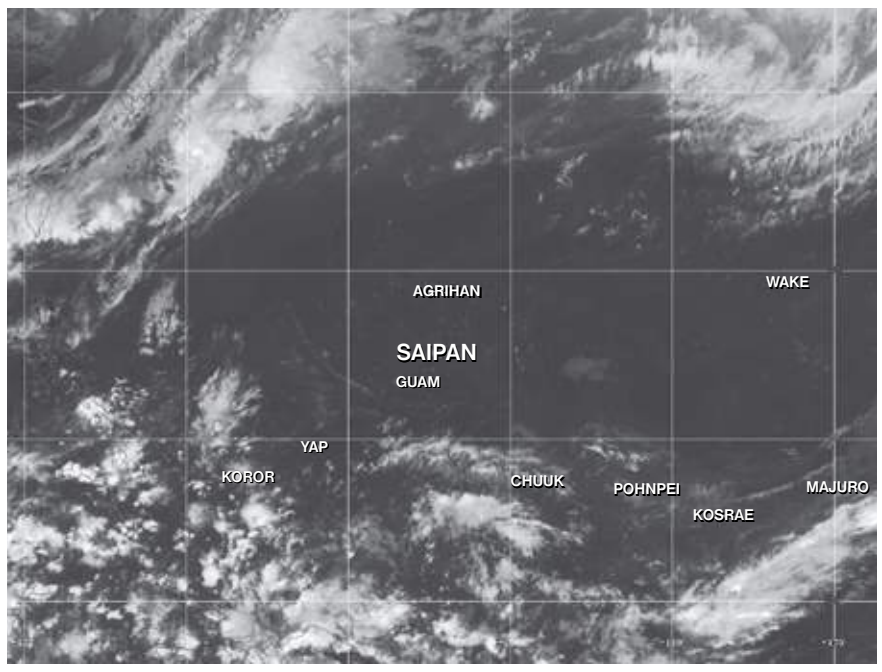
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲75	▼65
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Showers	▲80	▼56
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
New York	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼66
Osaka	Showers	▲75	▼65
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼52
Pusan	Showers	▲72	▼62
Rome	Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼50
Seoul	Rain	▲71	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲70	▼64
Washington, DC	Hot	▲93	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered trade-wind showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror between 8N and 12N from 130E to 135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of 1N between 133E and 144E and between 2N and 5N from 139E to 143E. This area is located south of Yap. Convergent trade-winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 145E to 154E. A surface trough embedded in convergent trade-wind flow is combining with divergence aloft to enhance increasing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south and east of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from EQ164E to 6N174E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:38AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:18AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:58PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:19PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:45PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:50AM	8:28PM
Friday	7:58AM	9:26PM
Saturday	9:03AM	10:18PM
Sunday	10:04AM	11:03PM
Monday	10:59AM	11:43PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI-RP FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Philippine Consul General to the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo delivers his remarks while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial looks on during the proclamation signing ceremony declaring the week of June 8-14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Monday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MILESTONE

From left, Jun Chong (who is in the military), Cristine P. Fitial, and Polly Ann Sablan (graduating from UC Riverside this month) pose after Fitial's graduation ceremony in San Diego, California. All three graduated from Mount Carmel School in 2004.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, cousins Jackie, Christine Fitial, and Raneeza Cano, who all attend the University of San Diego, pose for a souvenir picture after Fitial's graduation on May 25. Fitial graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. She also received top honors in the English department for maintaining a 3.7 grade point average.

MASTER'S DEGREE

Nineteenth-century American novelist and scholar Henry Brooks Adams once stated: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." We, the family of Frank Demapan, Jr., are proud to extend our sincerest congratulations to him for earning his master's degree in Education from the Framingham State College on May 24, 2008. We urge him to continue to progress forward as he creates the ripples of influence over time through the education of the youth. He is a great son and wonderful brother, and we wish him the best in his endeavors. Godspeed from your parents, Frank and Lela, and your siblings, Ann Elaine, Michelle, Joseph, and John Paul.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TES PROMOTION

The Tinian Elementary School held its 6th Grade promotional ceremony on May 29. Nikkie O. Ayuyu, left, the son of Pedro and Mercy Ayuyu, walked away with the Commissioner's Award, while Ria Encia Borja, right, daughter of Victor and Eloise Borja, received the Principal's Award. During the ceremony, the students were graced with the congratulatory messages from Education Commissioner Dr. David Borja and Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RED CROSS DONATION

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter donates Girl Scout manuals and pins to the local Girl Scout troops. This donation was made possible through the generosity of the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, which supports many community and social services organizations in the CNMI. "We are proud to support the mission and efforts of the Girl Scouts here in the Commonwealth," said ARC executive director John Hirsh. In photo, from left, are Hirsh; Kim Prinz-Coats, Overseas Committee chair of the Girls Scouts NMI Council; and Cyndy Tice, CNMI Gil Scouts secretary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REYNA ELENA

Isabelle Mendiola De Leon was crowned the Reyna Elena Queen during the Santacruzan rites on May 11, 2008, in Barrio Paraiso, Orani, Bataan in the Philippines. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jaime De Leon of Dandan, Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tracy Del Rosario for graduating with magna cum laude honors at the Chaminade University in Hawaii. "We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. We believe in you and your capacity to achieve even more in this new phase of your life." Greetings come from the San Antonio Parish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WELCOME HOME

Welcome home Lance Corporal Sowm Kaipat, from family and friends. Sowm is the son of Damiana and Diego Kaipat of Dandan. He graduated from MCRD San Diego on May 18, 2007. Sowm is currently stationed in Camp Kinser, Okinawa with the Combat Logistic Group Regiment. Upon completion of his 15-day leave, he will report back to CLR 37 H.Q. and wait for his next order of assignment. Welcome, good luck and best wishes from all of us. God bless!

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Belated happy birthday to Kyna Margareth Sales, who celebrated her third birthday on June 10, Tuesday. She marked the occasion with balloons, spaghetti, and an extra special birthday cake. Greetings come from your parents, Ivan and Malou, and brother Yoyi.

Business

Oil slides below $124 on demand concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices fell sharply Tuesday, dropping below $124 a barrel as demand concerns grew and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke indicated that more interest rate cuts are unlikely. Bernanke's comments sent the dollar higher and raised questions about oil's ability to reach new highs in the short term.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery fell $3.45 to settle at $124.31 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices dipped as low as $123.87 in after-hours electronic trading. It was oil's lowest trading and settlement levels since May 15.

Prices peaked at $135.09 on May 22; its settlement Tuesday was $10.78, or 8 percent, below that record.

Retail gas prices, meanwhile, rose slightly to a new record near $3.98 a gallon, but could fall if oil prices continue to decline.

The latest MasterCard SpendingPulse survey found that demand for gasoline fell by 4.7 percent last week—which included the long Memorial Day holiday weekend—compared to the same week last year. Averaged over the last four weeks, demand was down 6 percent last week compared to last year.

That dovetails with recent data from the Energy Department and Federal Highway Administration, as well as several other surveys suggesting high prices are cutting American's appetite for fuel. A new survey by RBC Capital Markets finds about 90 percent of Americans have made changes in their daily lives to counter high energy prices, including driving less and taking public transportation more often.

On Tuesday, General Motors Corp. said it would close four truck and SUV plants in the U.S., Canada and Mexico as surging fuel prices hasten a dramatic shift to smaller vehicles.

"Investors are ... wondering if we've got to the point, with prices around $130 a barrel, if that's too much for consumers to bear," said Rachel Ziemba, an analyst at RGEMonitor.com in New York.

Homebuilders offer bleak outlook

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Homebuilder D.R. Horton said Tuesday the industry could face tough times until 2010, and underscoring that point, Toll Bros. reported its third straight quarterly loss.

"I believe the industry will continue to face rising pressures for certainly the next 12 to 18 months," said Don Tomnitz, D.R. Horton's president and chief executive, adding that "2010 will be the earliest we get a more solid homebuilding environment."

Hombuilders are struggling to sell their homes at a time when many buyers remain reluctant to enter the market because they expect home prices will continue to slide. A glut of unsold homes has also hurt builders, forcing many to step up incentives and discounts, shrinking their profits.

Tomnitz said home prices may still have more to drop in many of the hardest-hit markets, like Florida, California, Las Vegas and Arizona.

"But, clearly, to me we've come down more than we're going to have to come down on a going forward basis," he said.

When order cancellation rates begin to fall, Tomnitz said, that will be an indication of improvement in the market. He noted that cancelations were down in the latest quarter.

But builders' balance sheets are also taking a beating as the companies write down the value of thousands of acres of land purchased during the housing boom that is now worth less than they paid.

AP

Kelly Bice, a former construction company executive, at a housing development in Escondido, Calif., Tuesday April 22, 2008. Bice was bringing in a six figure salary before losing his job when the company he worked for filed for bankruptcy in February.

The top 11 homebuilders wrote down a combined $22.9 billion in assets between the third quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of this year, according to JPMorgan, which hosted its 3rd Annual Basics and Industrials Conference in New York Tuesday where many building executives spoke.

Write downs were the biggest problem for Toll Brothers Inc., the Horsham, Pa.-based luxury homebuilder.

....as factory orders post increase in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—Orders for manufactured goods posted a surprisingly strong increase in April as demand rose in a number of areas including heavy machinery, iron and steel.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that orders were up 1.1 percent in April following a 1.5 percent increase in March. Those gains followed big declines in January and February that raised concerns about how much pain manufacturing industries would feel from the severe economic slowdown hitting housing and the financial sector.

Orders in the battered auto industry and commercial aircraft sector did fall sharply in April, but other areas showed strength catching analysts by surprise. They had been forecasting that overall orders would edge down slightly in April.

The better-than-expected reading on orders for manufactured goods followed news Monday that a key gauge of manufacturing rose to a reading of 49.6 in May, up from 48.6 in April.

While the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index remained at levels indicating a continued contraction in manufacturing, the upward movement was seen as a possible sign that manufacturing was beginning to stabilize.

On Wall Street, stocks fell sharply for a second straight day on fresh worries about what the credit crisis is doing to the health of the nation's banks. The Dow Jones industrial average declined 100.97 points to close at 12,402.85.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM to close 4 plants, focus on small cars

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—General Motors Corp. officially blew up its old business model Tuesday, closing four pickup truck and sport utility vehicle factories, announcing a new small car that could get 45 miles per gallon and shedding 8,350 jobs in the process. The automaker said it would idle pickup and SUV factories in Janesville, Wis.; Oshawa, Ontario; Moraine, Ohio; and Toluca, Mexico, as it tries to deal with a shift to smaller vehicles brought on by $4 per gallon gasoline. GM also took aim at the Hummer, one off the largest vehicles on U.S. highways, saying it would either be sold or get a remake. The move cuts about 2,900 jobs in Oshawa, about 2,800 in Janesville, about 2,400 in Moraine and about 250 in Toluca, said GM spokesman Tom Wilkinson.

Toyota, Honda cars outsell Ford pickups

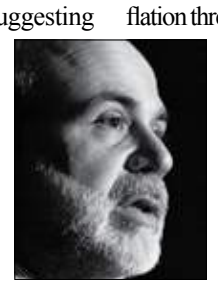
DETROIT (AP)—U.S. auto sales in May brought the starkest signs yet that gas prices have dramatically shifted the market to smaller cars, as the top-selling Ford F-series truck was dethroned by cars from Toyota and Honda and as General Motors announced it was closing four truck and SUV plants after dismal results. GM said Tuesday its sales fell 28 percent in May compared to a year earlier, with a 37 percent decline in truck and SUV sales and a 14 percent drop in car sales. At the automaker's annual meeting in Wilmington, Del., Tuesday, CEO Rick Wagoner said GM will close four truck and SUV plants in the U.S., Canada and Mexico by 2010, affecting 10,000 jobs. Ford's sales fell 16 percent for the month, while Chrysler LLC's sales were down 25 percent and Toyota Motor Corp.'s sales slipped 4 percent. Overall sales were down 11 percent compared to last May, according to Autodata Corp.

Stocks slide on more concerns about financials

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street fell sharply for a second straight day Tuesday as investors grew more worried that the financial sector is still suffering badly from the credit crisis. The Dow Jones industrials dropped more than 100 points, bringing their two-day loss to 235. The Dow fell 100.97, or 0.81 percent, to 12,402.85, after being down more than 160 points earlier. Broader market indexes were also lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 8.02, or 0.58 percent, to 1,377.65, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 11.05, or 0.44 percent, to 2,480.48. Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average closed down 1.60 percent. In afternoon trading, Britain's FTSE 100 closed up 0.83 percent, Germany's DAX index added 0.15 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 0.98 percent.

Inflation moves up on Bernanke's worry list

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has moved inflation up on his list of worries, suggesting more pointedly than ever that the time for cutting interest rates is over in view of soaring oil and commodity prices and a weakened dollar.



Bernanke

Although the country's economic growth—bruised by housing, credit and financial debacles—is still fragile, Bernanke on Tuesday expressed hope for some improvement in the second half of this year.

At the same time, he sounded a notably louder warning against inflation threats. To this end, he raised his biggest public concern to date about the slide in the U.S. dollar, saying it has contributed to an "unwelcome rise" in inflation.

The Fed chief's fresh assessment—delivered via satellite to an international monetary conference in Spain—appeared to mark a subtle shift in Bernanke's views about economic risks.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,689.900 Down 13.100 (-0.23%)

HONG KONG 24,316.86 Down 58.90 (-0.24%)

JAKARTA 2,383.314 Down 20.5 (-0.85%)

TOKYO 14,368.43 Up 159.26 (+1.12%)

K. LUMPUR 1,257.57 Down 4.92 (-0.39%)

MANILA 2,773.12 Down 9.68 (-0.35%)

SINGAPORE 3,159.51 Down 5.57 (-0.18%)

SEOUL 1,832.95 Up 13.56 (+0.75%)

BANGKOK 580.18 Up 3.36 (+0.58%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 12,402.85 -0.81%

NASDAQ 2,480.48 -0.44%

S&P 1,377.65 -0.58%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0457
British Pound	0.5098
Canadian Dollar	1.0094
Chinese Renmbi	6.9371
Euro	0.6477
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8076
Indian Rupee	42.57
Indonesian Rupiah	9,317
Japanese Yen	105.21
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2265
New Zealand Dollar	1.2827
Philippine Peso	43.855
Singapore Dollar	1.3646
South Korean Won	1017.85
Swiss Franc	1.0427
Taiwan Dollar	30.334
Thailand Baht	32.632

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama seals nomination: 'This is our moment'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Cheered by a roaring crowd, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois laid claim to the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday night, taking a historic step toward his once-improbable goal of becoming the nation's first black president. Hillary Rodham Clinton maneuvered for the vice presidential spot on his fall ticket without conceding her own defeat.

"America, this is our moment," the 46-year-old senator and one-time community organizer said in his first appearance as the Democratic nominee-in-waiting. "This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past."

Clinton praised Obama warmly in an appearance before supporters in New York, although she neither acknowledged his victory in their grueling marathon nor offered a concession of any sort.

Instead, she said she was committed to a unified party and would spend the next few days determining "how to move forward with the best interests of our country and our party guiding my way."

Obama's victory set up a five-month campaign with Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a race between a first-term Senate opponent of the Iraq War and a 71-year-old former Vietnam prisoner of war and staunch supporter of the current U.S. military mission.

And both men seemed eager to begin.

McCain spoke first, in New Orleans, and he accused his younger rival of voting "to deny funds to the soldiers who have done a brilliant and brave job" in Iraq." Americans, he added, should be concerned about the judgment of a presidential candidate who has not traveled to Iraq yet "says he's ready to talk, in person and without conditions, with tyrants from Havana to Pyongyang."

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., waves at an election night rally in St. Paul, Minn., Tuesday, June 3, 2008. AP

McCain agreed with Obama that the presidential race would focus on change. "But the choice is between the right change and the wrong change, between going forward and going backward," he said.

Obama responded quickly, pausing in his own speech long enough to praise Clinton for "her strength, her courage and her commitment to the causes that brought us here tonight."

As for his general election rival, he said, "It's not change when John McCain decided to stand with George Bush 95 percent of the time, as he did in the Senate last year. It's not change when he offers four more years of Bush economic policies that have failed to create well-paying jobs. ... And it's not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave young men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians."

In a symbolic move, Obama spoke in the same hall where McCain will accept the Republican nomination at his party's convention in September. Campaign officials, citing the local fire marshal, put the crowd at 17,000 inside the eXcel Energy Center, plus another 15,000 outside.

McCain addressed a smaller crowd by design, an estimated 600 in his audience and another 600 outside.

One campaign began as another was ending.

Clinton won South Dakota on the final night of the primary season; Obama took Montana.

As is his custom, he placed a call to the former first lady to congratulate her on her victory. He left a message on her voicemail asking for a call back, said Linda Douglass a senior campaign adviser.

Only 31 delegates were at stake in the two states on the night's ballot, the final few among the thousands that once drew Obama, Clinton and six other Democratic candidates into the campaign to replace Bush and become the nation's 44th president.

Obama sealed his nomination, according to The Associated Press tally, based on primary elections, state Democratic caucuses and support from party "superdelegates." It takes 2,118 delegates to clinch the nomination at the convention in Denver this summer, and Obama had 2,151 by the AP count.

Obama, a first-term senator who was virtually unknown on the national stage four years ago, defeated Clinton, the former first lady and one-time campaign front-runner, in a 17-month marathon for the Democratic nomination.

His victory had been widely assumed for weeks. But Clinton's declaration of interest in becoming his ticketmate was wholly unexpected.

She expressed it in a conference call with her state's congressional delegation after Rep. Nydia Velazquez, predicted Obama would have great difficulty winning the support of Hispanics and other voting blocs unless the former first lady was on the ticket.

"I am open to it" if it would help the party's prospects in November, Clinton replied, according to participants who spoke on condition of anonymity because the call was private.

Clinton's comments raised anew the prospect of what many Democrats have called a "Dream Ticket" that would put a black man and a woman on the same ballot, but Obama's aides were noncommittal. "We're not in the presidential phase here. We're going to close out the nominating fight and then we'll consider that," David Axelrod, Obama's top strategist, told reporters aboard the candidate's plane en route to Minnesota.

McCain's criticism of Obama referred to a vote last year in which the Illinois senator came out against legislation paying for the Iraq war because it did not include a timetable for withdrawing troops. At the time, Obama said the funding would give President Bush "a blank check to continue down this same, disastrous path."

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy wrote of desire to kill many at Indiana school

CLEVELAND (AP)—A teenager accused of plotting a school attack wrote that he wanted "instant recognition" for shooting a record number of victims and that he wouldn't feel sorry about it, according to documents unsealed Tuesday. A black spiral notebook authorities obtained from the 16-year-old boy's locker at Penn High School in Mishawaka, Ind., contained handwritten entries in which the teen expressed his hatred for most of the people at the school. "I wanna break the current shooting record. I wanna get instant recognition. The only thing that stops me is the fact of being put in jail forever, or having to kill myself, or getting killed by an officer. I could kill anyone without feeling sorry because society sucks!!!" read an entry dated April 18, the day before he was arrested.

More sect children reunited with happy parents

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—Families from a polygamist sect began trickling back to the Yearning For Zion Ranch on Tuesday—exactly two months after child welfare authorities and law enforcement first arrived at its battered metal gate looking for a caller to a domestic abuse hot line. Willie Jessop, an elder with the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said some of the more than 400 children seized from the ranch in April had returned there with their families, though he was unsure how many. The Texas Supreme Court ruled last week that the state overreached in the massive custody case by taking all children from the ranch when evidence of sexual abuse was limited to a few teenage girls.

Kennedy walking hospital halls as recovery begins

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy emerged from the most precarious period following surgery to treat a brain tumor without any complications, spending Tuesday walking hospital hallways, spending time with his family and "keeping up with the news of the day," his office said. Kennedy had a restful night's sleep after Monday's operation, a statement said, and the 76-year-old Democrat is expected to stay at the hospital in Durham for about a week before returning home to Massachusetts for further treatment.

Lightning ignites tank at Kansas petroleum factory

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—Authorities say lightning from a line of strong thunderstorms ignited a large fire at a petroleum plant in downtown Kansas City, Kan. City fire Capt. Stan Castaneda says lightning struck a large storage tank at the Magellan Petroleum factory near downtown. The massive fire has sent flames and dark smoke billowing into the sky. No injuries have been reported.

Ohio man pleads guilty in alleged terror plot

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A man accused of joining al-Qaida in the early 1990s and helping teach fellow Muslim extremists how to bomb U.S. and European targets pleaded guilty Tuesday to planning terrorist attacks. Christopher Paul, 44, pleaded guilty to a count that carries a maximum life prison sentence, but entered into a plea agreement with prosecutors that calls for a 20-year term. U.S. District Court Judge Gregory Frost accepted the plea but said he would not give final approval to the deal until he sees the government's pre-sentence report, which is not expected for several months.

Priest who mocked Clinton told to take a leave

CHICAGO (AP)—Cardinal Francis George asked a Chicago priest on Tuesday to temporarily step down from his post to "reflect on his recent statements" regarding Sen. Hillary Clinton and her bid for the White House. Last week, the Rev. Michael Pfleger mocked Clinton at Sen. Barack Obama's former church, saying the New York senator felt "entitled" to the Democratic nomination for president. In a guest sermon at Trinity United Church of Christ, Pfleger pretended he was Clinton crying over "a black man stealing my show." Pfleger apologized for his comments Sunday.

Teen WWII hero, now 80, gravely ill with cancer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A World War II veteran who received the nation's highest military honor when he was only 17 is in the fight of his life, battling cancer, his biographer said. Eighty-year-old Jack Lucas, who lied his way into the Marines at age 14, was nearly killed when he used his body to shield his fellow Marines from grenades on Iwo Jima in February 1945. He was just a few days past his 17th birthday at the time. He received the Medal of Honor from President Truman later that year, becoming the youngest Marine to receive the award. D.K. Drum, whose book "Indestructible" tells Lucas' story, said Monday that he is in "grave" condition at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, where family and friends are staying with him 24 hours a day.

Asia

Denmark: Al-Qaida likely behind bomb in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Denmark's intelligence service cast blame on al-Qaida for an attack near its embassy in Pakistan that investigators said Tuesday was carried out by a suicide bomber.

No one has claimed responsibility for the car bomb, which killed six people. But Danish authorities said the terror network or one of its affiliates was likely behind the explosion, which came just weeks after the terrorist group threatened Denmark over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad reprinted earlier this year in newspapers in that country.

"It is (the Danish Security and Intelligence Service's) assessment that al-Qaida or an al-Qaida-related group likely is behind the attack," said Jakob Scharf, director of the agency. He added that "a series of other militant Islamic groups and networks in Pakistan also could have the intention and the capacity to hit Danish targets in Pakistan."

A team of Pakistani investigators sifted through the rubble at the scene of the explosion in a leafy neighborhood of Islamabad where security is supposed to be tight. Danish experts were expected to join them.

"I think we can say with a reasonable degree of confidence that it was a suicide attack," Tariq Pervez, director general of the Federal Investigation Agency told The Associated Press.

Alleged Maoist rebels abduct, kill RP town police chief

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—Suspected communist guerrillas abducted a town police chief Tuesday then later shot him to death in a mountainous southern Philippine region where government forces have intensified counterinsurgency assaults, a police official said.

Inspector Jonel Belenson, who heads the Boston town police force in Davao Oriental province, was traveling with his police aide, Rowell Balmores, on a motorcycle in nearby Baganga township when they were stopped by about 20 New People's Army rebels and dragged away at gunpoint, police Senior Superintendent Jimmy Manabat said.

Belenson apparently fought his captors while being led away and was shot to death. His body was found by police in a wooded area near where they were abducted in Baganga while his aide remained in rebel custody, Manabat said.

Army and police forces were hunting for the rebels, Manabat said.

A New People's Army spokesman was not immediately available for comment. The rebels are difficult to contact because they often change their phone numbers, citing security reasons. They occasionally claim responsibility for attacks a few days after the event.

US ships abort Myanmar mercy mission

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—U.S. Navy ships are leaving Myanmar after failing to get the junta's permission to unload aid to "ease the suffering of hundreds of thousands" of cyclone survivors, the top U.S. military commander in the Pacific said Tuesday.

Word of the aborted mercy mission comes even as the United Nations warned that a month after the cyclone swept through Myanmar, more than 1 million people still don't have adequate food, water or shelter and junta policies are hindering relief efforts.

Adm. Timothy Keating ordered the vessels to leave the Myanmar area Thursday, after the U.S. made at least 15 attempts to convince Myanmar's leaders to allow ships, helicopters and landing craft to offload their aid.

Myanmar's state media has said that it feared a U.S. invasion aimed at seizing the country's oil deposits. But the junta has also forbidden use of military helicopters from friendly neighboring nations, which are vital in rushing supplies to isolated survivors.

Keating, in a news release from Honolulu, said the USS Essex and accompanying ships would return if Myanmar's leaders change their minds.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Accidental blast kills 5 children in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Police say five children have died after the accidental detonation of a mortar shell at a scrap metal business in Pakistan. Police officer Rehmatullah Niazi said one of the scrap dealer's children bought three shells for recycling in Quetta, a city near the Afghan border. Niazi said the boy dropped one shell in the house, where the business was also located, causing the blast. Five of the merchant's children were killed—four boys and a girl—and four others were injured.

China appoints new top Taiwan negotiator

BEIJING (AP)—China has appointed a senior official on Taiwan affairs as its chief negotiator on dealings with the island, state media reported Tuesday, an apparent indication the sides are preparing for substantive talks. Relations between China and Taiwan have warmed considerably since Nationalist Ma Ying-jeou was elected Taiwan's president in March. Ma has pledged not to seek formal independence and called on China to put aside persistent political disputes to forge business ties. Chen Yunlin was chosen as chief of the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, the quasi-governmental body China set up in 1991 to deal directly with Taiwan, Xinhua reported.

Gates reaffirms US commitment to South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday that Washington's security commitment to South Korea will remain unchanged even after it takes back full operational control of its military by 2012. The planned transition will not undermine the closeness of the alliance, in which the U.S. has "an unshakable commitment" to South Korea, Gates said in a speech at a change of command ceremony in Seoul. Gates was visiting South Korea on the final leg of an Asian trip that included stops in Guam, Singapore and Thailand.

US general takes over NATO command in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. general who led American troops into Iraq took command Tuesday of the 40-nation NATO-led campaign in Afghanistan. Army Gen. David D. McKiernan took charge of the 51,000-member International Security Assistance Force from Gen. Dan McNeill, who will retire from the U.S. Army after 40 years. Addressing a change of command ceremony Tuesday, McKiernan said he was "honored to walk alongside our Afghan brothers." In the latest violence, three ISAF soldiers were killed in attacks, including two in eastern Afghanistan, where most of the forces are American. About 15 others—insurgents and Afghan police—also died in violence.

World

US nets 2 al-Qaida suspects

BAGHDAD (AP)—American troops grabbed two al-Qaida in Iraq bombing suspects and a Shiite militia leader Tuesday in separate raids north and south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

The command also said U.S. soldiers killed four other suspects a day earlier after coming under fire from machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in Shiite sections of the capital. The troops seized dozens of rifles and several rounds of ammunition, the statement said.

One of the two al-Qaida suspects, who was captured with four aides in Mosul, is believed to have overseen security for the group's branch in that northern city, the military said. Mosul is one of the terror network's last urban strongholds and the target of a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation.

The man, who was not identified by name, is also suspected of masterminding bombings against Iraqi police in the area, the U.S. military said.

The other al-Qaida in Iraq su0pect was apprehended along with an assistant in Tikrit, a Sunni Arab city south of Mosul. He allegedly helped organize suicide bombings and the movement of foreign fighters into the country, a U.S. statement said.

The suspected Shiite militia leader and five associates surrendered without incident at his home in Kut, southeast of the Iraqi capital, the U.S. said. He was accused of involvement in the murder of Iraqis and American soldiers, it said.

Violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq since a May 11 cease-fire put an end to seven weeks of fighting by U.S. and Iraqi troops against Shiite militias in Baghdad's Sadr City district.

CONCRETE BOOKS

Doctorate students of University of Fine Arts of Budapest work on a project by Janos Huebler and Nemere Kerezsi titled "The Concrete" that involves as many as some 12,000 books embedded in concrete, in the Centralis Gallery of Budapest. The politically outdated books were donated by the Research Institute of Radio Free Europe, the once active American-sponsored channel that spearheaded fighting Communism before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

3 suspect Syrian nuke sites off limits

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Syria has told fellow Arab countries that it will not permit an International Atomic Energy Agency probe to extend beyond a site bombed by Israel, despite agency interest in three other suspect locations, diplomats told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The agency's main focus during its planned June 22-24 visit to Syria is a building in the country's remote eastern desert that was destroyed by Israeli jets in September.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei announced Monday that Damascus has agreed to an agency check of U.S. assertions that target was a plutonium-producing reactor that was near completion, and thus at the stage where it could generate the fissile material for nuclear arms.

The U.N. agency is also interested in following up on information that Syria may have three other undeclared atomic facilities.

Sudan govt linked to Darfur crimes

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court charges that "the whole state apparatus" of Sudan is implicated in crimes against humanity in the Darfur region, linking the government directly with the feared janjaweed militia.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo says in a report to the U.N. Security Council, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, that he has uncovered evidence showing "high officials" in the Sudanese government are linked to many horrendous attacks in Darfur.

Atrocities include killing, torture and rape of civilians, even girls as young as 5 or 6, with their parents forced to watch, the report says. It also says senior Sudanese officials are linked to the burning and looting of homes, bombing of schools and destroying of mosques.

Leaders feast during hunger summit

ROME (AP)—For presidents and premiers at summits, delicacies washed down by fine wines are all part of the agenda.

But the puff pastries with corn and mozzarella, pasta with pumpkin and shrimp, and rolls of thinly sliced veal served up Tuesday at a U.N. conference on fighting hunger were a contrast to bleak accounts of starving people around the world.

The menu was in French but the fare was strictly Italian, served in a dining room at the headquarters of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

The repast was accompanied by a chilled white wine from Orvieto in the hills of Umbria north of Rome.

"It's pretty standard stuff," said FAO spokesman Nick Parsons, describing the meal as "pleasant, light and nutritious."

For decades, the FAO has striven for a sober culinary touch since an embarrassing moment during a similar summit called in 1974 amid a food crisis and oil shock.

Environment

Do you change your own oil?

Improper disposal of oil can spoil our reefs and ultimately affect our health, so if you are one of the many who change your own oil, please do it right – recycle it!

On Saturday, June 21, there will be a free used oil collection at the lower base transfer station for all residential generators. This free event can help keep used motor oil away from our beaches and out of our water.

A simple act, taking our used oil to the transfer station, can save energy and a valuable resource.

PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE

To put it into perspective, just one gallon of used oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of water.

Other things about used oil:

■ Used motor oil is insoluble, persistent and can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals.

■ It's slow to degrade.

■ It sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers.

■ It's a major source of oil contamination of waterways and can result in pollution of drinking water sources.

There is already pollution from oil runoff from cars and trucks, especially where there are road or parking lot expansions. Older two stroke engines still found on many recreational boats and jet skis were designed to discharge gasoline and oil. Imagine the impacts! ***(DEQ)***

TIPS

Turn off the engine, block the wheels, and set the parking brake before getting under your car. To avoid burns, make sure that the engine is not too hot. Consult your owner's manual for directions.

Remove the drain plug on the bottom of the engine's oil pan and allow the used oil to drain from your car into a suitable container, such as a drip pan.

If you are changing your oil filter, do it next and follow the directions below, and on the filter. Regardless, replace the drain plug in the bottom of the engine's oil pan. Make sure that it's tight.

Carefully add the new engine oil. Although most cars take four to five quarts of oil, always check your owner's manual for the amount of oil required and the recommended grade of motor oil to be used. Do not overfill.

With the parking brakes still set, and in a well-ventilated area, start the engine of the car. The oil pressure light may be on, but should go out after a few seconds. Once the light goes out, allow the engine to run for a few minutes.

Turn off the engine and check the oil level. Also, check around the oil filter and drain plug for oil leaks.

So you know when to change your oil next, write down the date and mileage, as well as grade and brand of motor oil you installed.

Use a funnel or carefully pour the used oil from the drop pan into a suitable recycling container. Reuse the drip pan; don't rinse the residual oil down the drain.

Protect the environment and conserve resources by taking your used oil to the transfer station.

Oil and water don't mix

Which of these would you want in your water? a. furniture polish b. paint thinner c. motor oil?

Answer: None, of course! But if we don't dispose of them properly, they end up in our water!

Earth is a like a sponge. It soaks everything in, including common everyday things that are dumped on the ground. For example, a gallon of paint or a quart of used motor oil can seep into the soil and pollute up to 250,000 gallons of drinking water. And a spilled gallon of gasoline can pollute 750,000 gallons of water! Insecticide, used by farmers and gardeners, can also soak into the ground and pollute our earth, which is why it is important to only use the recommended amount stated on the labels.

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

Our islands rely on groundwater for everyday uses such as cooking, washing, and taking showers. The only to protect this resource is properly disposing of our waste. ***(CoCo)***

Use of wind energy is expected to grow dramatically

AP

Modern windmills are seen on a field near Alzey, southern Germany, on a cold and windy Sunday, June 4, 2006.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two decades from now Americans could get as much electricity from windmills as from nuclear power plants, according to a government report that lays out a possible plan for wind energy growth.

The report, a collaboration between the Energy Department research labs and industry, concludes wind energy could generate 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030, about the same share now produced by nuclear reactors.

Such growth would pose a number of major challenges, but is achievable without the need of major new technological breakthroughs, said the report released Monday.

"The report indicates that we can do this nationally for less than half a cent per kilowatt hour if we have the vision," said Andrew Karsner, the Energy Department's assistant secretary for efficiency and renewable energy.

If achieved, it would be an astounding leap.

Wind energy today accounts for only about 1 percent of the nation's electricity, although the industry has been on a growth binge with a 45 percent jump in production last year.

To reach the 20 percent production level, wind turbines would have to produce 300,000 megawatts of power, compared to about 16,000 megawatts generated today. Such growth would envision more than 75,000 new wind turbines, many of them larger than those operating today. About 54,000 megawatts would be produced by turbines in offshore waters.

And it would require a major expansion of the electricity grid system to move power from high-wind areas to other parts of the country, the report said.

"The United States possesses abundant wind resources," said the report spearheaded by DOE's National Renewable Technology Laboratory in Golden, Colo., and a 20 percent share of electricity production "while ambitious, could be feasible."

But the report cautioned that its findings were not meant to predict that such growth would, in fact, be achieved, but only that it is technically possible. And it acknowledged "there are significant costs, challenges and impacts" associated with such rapid growth.

It would require improved turbine technology, "significant changes" and expansion of power line systems and a major expansion of markets for wind energy to accommodate an annual growth rate of 16,000 megawatts of electricity a year beginning in 2018, more than five times today's annual growth.

Randall Swisher, executive director of the American Wind Energy Association, said the report confirms that wind energy "is no longer a niche" in the power industry.

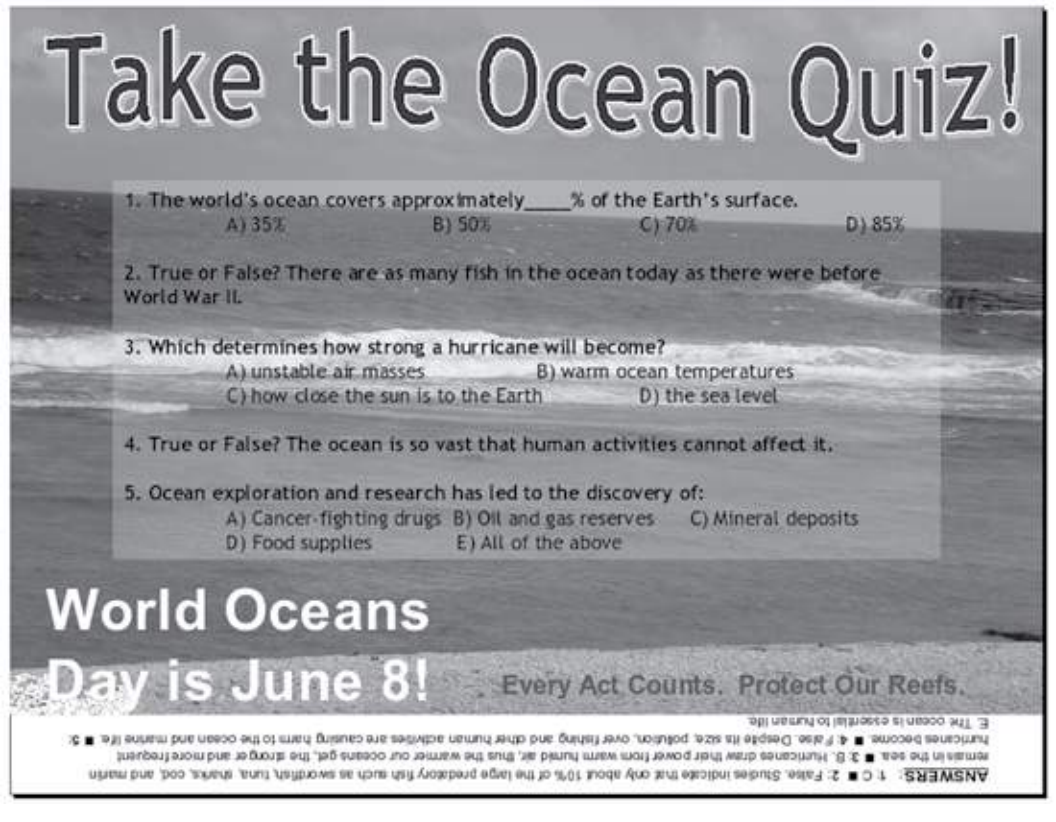
Dan Arvizu, director of the department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, said that the 18-month study provides a "vision" of the kind of wind energy growth technically possible.

"First of all, it's doable, second of all it's desirable," said Arvizu at a news conference.

"It's time for America to change the way we think about wind power," said Bob Lukefahr of BP Alternative Energy North America. The oil company is a leading wind developer, said Lukefahr.

If wind energy's share of power production grows to 20 percent, natural gas consumption is expected to decline by 11 percent and coal consumption by 18 percent in 2030, said the report. As a result carbon dioxide emissions linked to global warming would be reduced by 825 million metric tons a year.

"This is the equivalent of taking 140 million cars off the road," said Swisher.


Take the Ocean Quiz!
1. The world's ocean covers approximately____% of the Earth's surface.
A) 35% B) 50% C) 70% D) 85%
2. True or False? There are as many fish in the ocean today as there were before World War II.
3. Which determines how strong a hurricane will become?
A) unstable air masses B) warm ocean temperatures
C) how close the sun is to the Earth D) the sea level
4. True or False? The ocean is so vast that human activities cannot affect it.
5. Ocean exploration and research has led to the discovery of:
A) Cancer-fighting drugs B) Oil and gas reserves C) Mineral deposits
D) Food supplies E) All of the above
World Oceans Day is June 8!
Every Act Counts. Protect Our Reefs.
ANSWERS: 1. C ■ 2. False. Studies indicate that only about 10% of the large predatory fish such as swordfish, tuna, sharks, cod, and marlin remain in the sea. ■ 3. B. Hurricanes draw their power from warm humid air, thus the warmer our oceans get, the stronger and more frequent hurricanes become. ■ 4. False. Despite its size, pollution, over fishing and other human activities are causing harm to the ocean and marine life. ■ 5. E The ocean is essential to human life.

Life & Style

Fiesta fashion show features mom-and-me pairs

The Mom-and-Me fashion show was the highlight of Fiesta Resort and Spa's recent celebration of mothers.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Mom-and-Me fashion show was the highlight of Fiesta Resort and Spa's recent celebration of mothers during the Sunday Brunch held at the Hibiscus Hall.

Seven moms walked down the runway with their sons and daughters to show off the latest fashion in office and casual wear.

The show featured clothes provided by Tapo Shopping. Make-up was done by Tammy and Delia of Genoveva's Hair Power.

Watch out for another exciting event at Fiesta Resort and Spa in celebration of Father's Day.

Chantel and Leila

Franni and JP

Gay and Gabreana

Gie and KC

Hazel and Heleyna

Joy and Lemor

Jenny and Ysabel

Audrey Hepburn's ex, Mel Ferrer, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Ferrer, the tall, darkly handsome star of such classic films as "Lili," "War and Peace" and "The Sun Also Rises," as well as producer and director of movies starring his wife, Audrey Hepburn, has died at age 90.

Ferrer died Monday at his ranch near Santa Barbara, family spokesman Mike Mena said.

"It's a sad occasion, but he did live a long and productive life," Mena told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Ferrer's most impressive film role came in 1953 in "Lili." He played a rippled carnival puppeteer with whom a French orphan (played by Leslie Caron) falls in love.

He also won critical acclaim as Luis Bello in Robert Rossen's 1951 depiction of the public and private life of a bullfighter in "The Brave Bulls," based on a Tom Lea book, and starred opposite Hepburn in 1956's "War and Peace."

In later years, he turned more to directing and producing for movies and TV.

"Acting, at times, depresses Mel," Hepburn once said. "Directing lifts him. He's so relaxed at it that I just know it is the job he loves."

He and Hepburn had become engaged in 1954 when they appeared together in the New York play "Ondine." They married later that year in Burgenstock, Switzerland.

The pair divorced in 1968 and Ferrer married his fourth wife, Elizabeth Soukhotine, in 1971. She survives him.

Ferrer and Hepburn costarred in a television version of "Mayerling," and Ferrer directed Hepburn in the 1959 film "Green Mansions."

He also produced one of Hepburn's greatest film triumphs, 1967's "Wait Until Dark," a terrifying thriller in which she portrays a blind woman terrorized by drug dealers who break into her home.

Born Melchor Gaston Ferrer on Aug. 25, 1917, in Elberon, N.J., Ferrer was the son of a doctor from Puerto Rico and a socialite mother. He grew up in comfortable surroundings, attending private schools and Princeton University.

After winning a playwright's award in his sophomore year, Ferrer left Princeton to write a novel in Mexico. Instead he wrote a children's book, "Tito's Hats," which was published by Doubleday.

He spent a year as a book editor in New York, then began his acting career as a dancer in Broadway musicals. He acted in plays and on radio and directed a Hollywood movie, "Girl of the Limberlost."

Back in New York, he starred in the play "Strange Fruit," about a lynching in the South, and directed Jose Ferrer (no relation) in "Cyrano de Bergerac." His first major film role was in 1949's "Lost Boundaries," playing a light-skinned African-American doctor who passed for white in a New Hampshire town.

Ferrer's commanding presence and well-modulated voice made him ideal for characters of certitude and decision. His films included "Rancho Notorious," "Scaramouche," "Knights of the Round Table" (as King Arthur), "Born to Be Bad," "The Longest Day," "The Fall of the Roman Empire," "The Sun Also Rises," and "El Greco," which was made in Spain with Ferrer as co-producer and actor in the title role.

AP

In this May 21, 1959 file photo, actress Audrey Hepburn knits as she sits next to her husband Mel Ferrer during the filming of "The Unforgiven," in Durango, Mexico.

Alton Kelley, creator of psychedelic posters, 67

PETALUMA, Calif. (AP)—Alton Kelley, an artist who helped created the psychedelic style of posters and other art associated with the 1960s San Francisco rock scene, has died. He was 67.

Kelley died Sunday of complications from osteoporosis in his Petaluma home, according to his publicist, Jennifer Gross.

Kelley and his lifelong collaborator, Stanley "Mouse" Miller, churned out iconic work from their studio, a converted firehouse where Janis Joplin first rehearsed with Big Brother and the Holding Company.

The pair created dozens of classic rock posters, including the famous Grateful Dead "skull and roses" poster designed for a show at the Avalon Ballroom, as well as posters and album covers for Journey, Steve Miller, Jimi Hendrix and The Beatles.

Kelley and Miller's work influenced other well-known names in the genre such as Rick Griffin, who moved to San Francisco in 1966 after seeing their psychedelic posters and soon started producing his own.

For inspiration, the pair scrutinized old etchings and photos, took in the youth culture of the time and dug through public libraries, often breaking out into laughter until they were asked to leave by the librarian, Miller recalled.

AP

Alton Kelley, left, and Stanley Miller, right, are seen in this 1967 photo provided by Evolutionary Media Group.

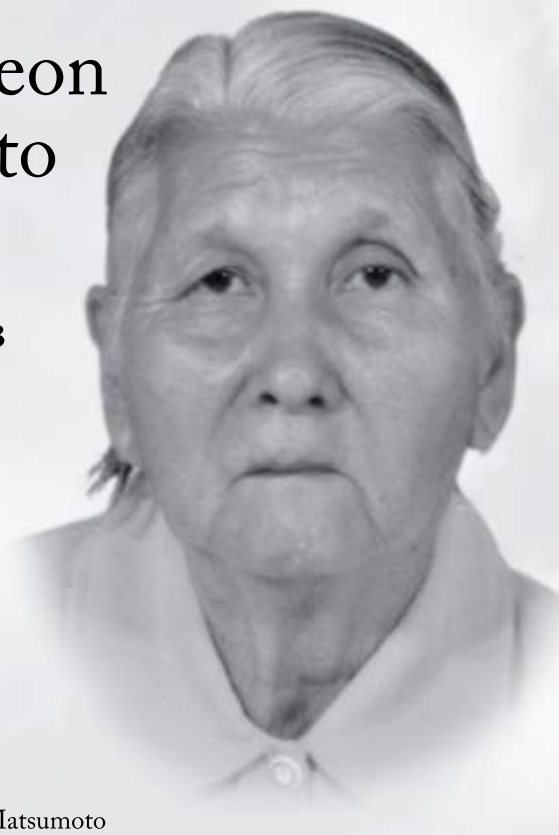
"We were just having fun making posters," Miller told the San Francisco Chronicle. "There was no time to think about what we were doing. It was a furious time, but I think most great art is created in a furious moment."

Born on June 17, 1940, Kelley met Miller in 1965, at the epicenter of the hippie movement—San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district—and soon recognized their ability to work together, in their words "riffing off each other's giggle."

In recent years, Kelley's artwork focused on paintings of hot rods and custom cars, which were sold as fine art and printed on T-shirts.

In Celebration of her new life

†Francisca Pilar DeLeon Guerrero Matsumoto
(Tan Kika)



Born Oct. 10, 1924 was called to her Eternal rest on May 28, 2008 at the age of 83

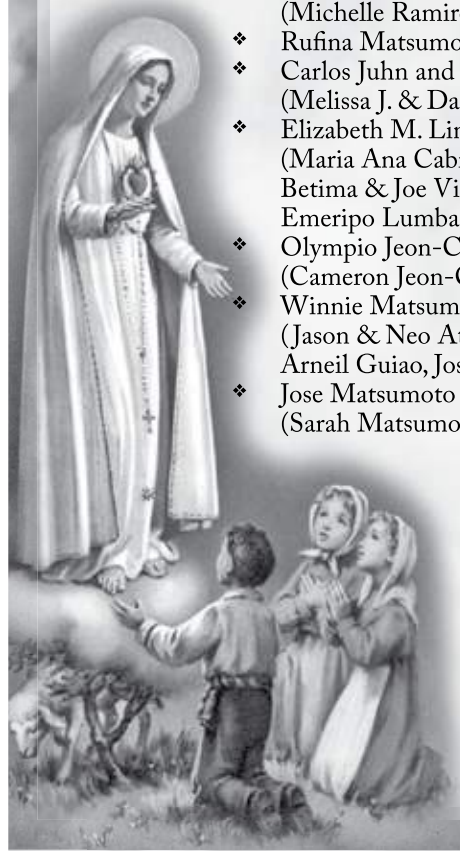
In her new life she now joins her

Husband	† Jesus Juhn Matsumoto
Father	† Jose U. Segmany
Mother	† Regina S. De Leon Guerrero
Reared Father	† Joaquin B. Pangelinan
Reared Mother	† Magdalena DLG. Pangelinan

She will live on in the hearts and memories of those who loved her:

Children, Spouses. and Grand Children:

- In Shin Chun
- Regina M. Chung and Yeon Chung
- Alejandro DLG. Matsumoto and Teresita S. Matsumoto (Dennis & Cathy Matsumoto, Charlene & Darith Chut, Herminio Matsumoto & Jasmine Hernandez)
- Magdalena M. Ramirez (Michelle Ramirez. Roxanne Ramirez, Richard Scott Ramirez)
- Rufina Matsumoto
- Carlos Juhn and Karen Juhn (Melissa J. & Daniel Nelson, Christopher Juhn)
- Elizabeth M. Linan and Victor Linan (Maria Ana Cabrera, Kelvin John, Alvin John & Princess Ayuyu, Betima & Joe Villagomez, Melvin King, Frances & Emeripo Lumba, Jeananne John)
- Olympio Jeon-Chapman and Judy Jeon-Chapman (Cameron Jeon-Chapman, Jackie Jeon-Chapman)
- Winnie Matsumoto and Jose Atalig (Jason & Neo Atalig, Valarie & Shawn Harris, Genevieve & Arneil Guiao, Jose Atalig Jr., Jesse Atalig, Jonathan Atalig)
- Jose Matsumoto and Emelda Matsumoto (Sarah Matsumoto, Joshua Matsumoto)



Reared Brothers and Sisters:

Edward DLG. and Dulce Pangelinan
Pedro DLG. Pangelinan
Gonzalo DLG. and Precy Pangelinan
Erminia P. and Jesus Leon Guerrero
Angie P. and Joe Borja

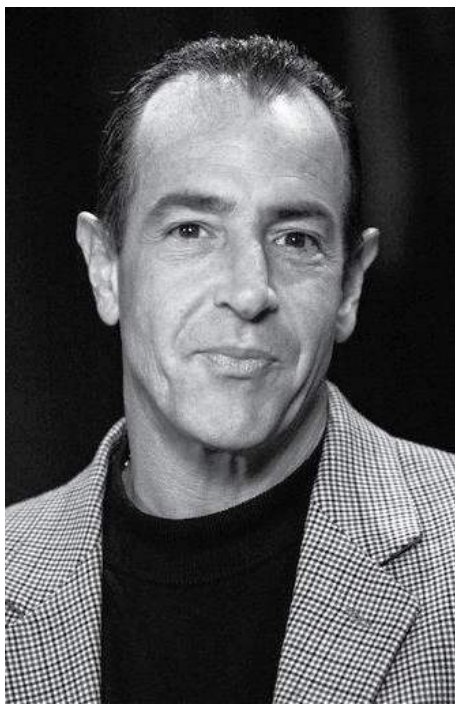
Numerous Great Grand Children, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Relatives and Friends will miss her.

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 PM at San Jose Church in Tinian and daily masses are being offered at 6 AM at Mt. Carmel Church in Saipan. On June 6, at 3:30 PM, her remains will leave CHC and she will be brought to Tinian and placed in THC. Afterwards, at 8:00 PM, rosary will be held at THC. On June 7, her remains will be transported to San Jose Church for viewing and last respects, which will start from 7:30–10:30 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM and will be followed by interment service at Tinian Cemetery.

Your prayers are very much appreciated.

The Family

Lohan's parents are back in court



AP

In this Oct. 24, 2007 file photo, Michael Lohan is interviewed in New York.

WESTBURY, N.Y. (AP)—The battling Lohans are back in court.

Nearly a year after they settled their divorce, Lindsay Lohan's estranged parents were in a Long Island courtroom Tuesday over custody issues.

Michael Lohan complained that his ex-wife, Dina, wasn't living up to a visitation agreement involving their two youngest children, Ali, 14, and Dakota, 11. The children live with their mother in Merrick; Michael now lives in Southampton.

While much of the discussion about the custody dispute took place in the judge's chambers, Michael Lohan's attorney, John DiMascio Jr., said it involved his client's complaints that he wasn't being allowed to visit the children.

Neither Lindsay Lohan, 21, nor her brother Michael, 19, are involved in the custody issue since they are no longer minors.

Their parents are no strangers to the media glare—Dina Lohan has her own reality TV show on E! and Michael Lohan writes a blog for OK! magazine.

But both claimed they intended to stop speaking to reporters while their court case proceeds.

"There won't be any more comments from Dina and I," Michael Lohan told reporters outside the Nassau County Family Court building.

Moments earlier, Dina Lohan's attorney made a similar declaration: "They would appreciate being allowed to participate in their children's lives without the press," said Eugene Russo.

Family Court Judge Stacy Bennett scheduled a follow-up court session July 14, but indicated she was pleased the two sides were attempting to reach a settlement.

"I am encouraged to hear that the parties and counsel are working at ways to repair the relationship between the children and the father," she said.

AP

Actress Ashley Judd appears on the NBC "Today" television program, in New York, Monday, June 2, 2008.

Ashley Judd speaks vs human trafficking

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Ashley Judd says she decided to lend her voice against human trafficking after she "stumbled upon" the issue while visiting brothels, slums, hospices and other clinics in 12 nations to promote public health.

"I know that the unheard are helped when they are heard. I know that compassionate listening helps me, and my goal was to help the U.N. help them," the actress said at a news conference Tuesday at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Judd, a two-time Golden Globe nominee whose screen credits include "De-Lovely" and "Kiss the Girls," also has used her celebrity to focus attention on HIV/AIDS prevention to young adults around the world. She has been serving as a global ambassador for YouthAIDS, an education and prevention program of the group Population Services International.

"I do think that all of the issues are fundamentally connected. They all spring out of gender inequality," she told reporters.

About 2.5 million people worldwide, most of them women and children, are thought to be victims of the $32 billion annual industry of human trafficking, according to U.N. figures. The General Assembly met Tuesday for a "thematic debate" on the subject.

Man who robbed 'Lost' star sentenced to prison

HONOLULU (AP)—A man who robbed "Lost" star Josh Holloway and his wife at gunpoint in their Hawaii home has been sentenced to 13 to 30 years in prison for his three-week crime spree.

The sentence was imposed Tuesday against 23-year-old Ruben Royce after he pleaded guilty to multiple charges in February.

Judge Karl Sakamoto said Royce was responsible for "a tidal wave of crime" that terrorized victims in their own homes. The four robberies occurred in the fall of 2005.

Prosecutors say Royce broke into the Holloways' home, threatened the couple at gunpoint, took their wallets and drove off in their Mercedes-Benz.

Holloway plays "Sawyer" on the ABC castaway drama filmed on Oahu.

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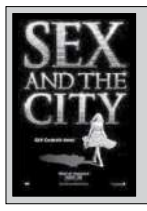
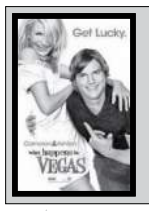


Sex and The City

Friday		4:15	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:00	

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R



What Happens in Vegas

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

★ ★ ★

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Friday		4:25	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:15	

Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Synopsis

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—ndy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Forbidden Kingdom

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jet Li, Jackie Chan
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Iron Man

Friday		4:00	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:25	

Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Speed Racer

Friday		4:10	@	@
Saturday	1:20	4:10	@	@
Sunday	1:20	4:10	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	@	

Emile Hirsch, Susan Sarandon
Action Adventure • Rated PG

Made of Honor

Friday		4:20	@	9:30
Saturday	@	4:20	@	9:30
Sunday	@	4:20	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	@	

Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Forgetting Sarah Marshall

Friday		@	7:10	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:10	9:40
Sunday	@	@	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		@	7:10	

Jason Segel, Kristen Bell
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Baby Mama

Friday		@	7:30	@
Saturday	1:05	@	7:30	@
Sunday	1:05	@	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		@	7:30	

Tina Fey, Amy Poehler
Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Tatum O'Neal says drug arrest 'saved' her

NEW YORK (AP)—Tatum O'Neal told a newspaper columnist she is grateful to the New York City police officers who busted her for cocaine and saved her from herself.

"I'm still sober!" the 44-year-old actress told New York Post columnist Andrea Peyser in a phone call shortly after being released from custody Monday.

"Just when I was about to change that and wreck my life, the cops came and saved me! I was saved by the bell, by the guys in the Seventh Precinct."

O'Neal is due back in court July 28 to face a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance.

She was arrested Sunday night during a routine drug sweep in her Lower East Side neighborhood. Police said they found two bags of cocaine in her pants pocket.

O'Neal, the daughter of Ryan O'Neal and ex-wife of John McEnroe, has publicly chronicled her struggles with heroin and cocaine addiction. She said she has been sober in recent months, going to 12-step recovery meetings every day.

AP

In a July 29, 2007 file photo Tatum O'Neal arrives at a premiere Los Angeles.

She told Peyser she had sought out drugs Sunday evening because she was sad about the death of her 16-year-old Scottish terrier—but didn't take the drugs. She said she still hoped to celebrate a year of sobriety July 10.

"I couldn't get out of it. I was going to my psychiatrist. I was doing everything I could do. ... One day, I'm walking aimlessly. I found myself doing the wrong thing," she said.

O'Neal told Peyser spending 18 hours behind bars wasn't bad.

"I slept on a mattress with a couple of ladies because I was tired. ... And I thought the thing that was cool about New York, no special treatment. No special cell. It wasn't that horrible. I think it's worse for the people that don't have a lawyer to get them out."

O'Neal won a best supporting actress Oscar at 10 for 1973's "Paper Moon," becoming the youngest person ever to win an Academy Award.

Her career later foundered, but she revived it in recent years. She has a recurring role as the boozy Maggie Gavin in FX cable channel's drama "Rescue Me," now in production for its fifth and sixth seasons.

She detailed her troubles with drugs in a 2004 memoir, "A Paper Life."

AP

In this May 5, 2008 file photo, actress Michelle Monaghan arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York.

'Made of Honor' star Monaghan announces pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Monaghan and her husband, Peter White, are expecting their first baby together this fall, her publicist said Tuesday.

Monaghan, 32, co-stars in the romantic comedy "Made of Honor," portraying the object of Patrick Dempsey's affection. Her screen credits also include "Gone Baby Gone," Mission: Impossible III," "North Country," "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" and "Constantine."

White is a graphic designer.

The couple married in August 2005. They began dating after meeting in a New York City bar, said Jennifer Allen, Monaghan's publicist.

Judge denies Bollea's bid to end jail isolation

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Hulk Hogan's 17-year-old son will stay in solitary confinement for now. A judge on Tuesday denied Nick Bollea's request to change the conditions of his jail sentence because solitary confinement is causing him "unbearable anxiety."

Bollea is serving eight months in jail after pleading no contest to causing a crash that seriously injured his friend.

Officials say he is segregated from other inmates in the county jail in Clearwater because he is a minor, even though he was convicted in adult court.

On Monday, his attorneys sued the Pinellas County sheriff, accusing jail officials of violating his privacy.

The lawsuit says jailers improperly released to the media recordings of telephone calls between him and his parents and allowed a news crew to film them.

AP

In a Dec. 15, 2006, file photo Nick Bollea, son of wrestler Hulk Hogan, arrives at Shag nightclub in Los Angeles.

'Survivor' Hatch appeals to High Court

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch has appealed his tax evasion conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court, his attorney said Tuesday.

Hatch was convicted two years ago of failing to pay taxes on the $1 million prize he won on the debut season of the hit CBS reality series. The Newport man was sentenced to more than four years in prison.

Hatch's lawyer, Michael Minns, has said his client confronted producers about cheating during taping of the show, and a producer promised his taxes would be paid if he kept quiet and went on to win the competition. CBS has said Hatch's claims have no merit.

In a brief filed with the Supreme Court on May 23, Minns argued the judge improperly prevented Hatch from testifying about the conversation.

Minns also argued the judge unfairly limited his cross-examination of the tax accountant who prepared Hatch's tax returns and who was a key witness for the government.

"He's extremely optimistic about his appeal," Minns said. "He still believes the system should work."

The U.S. Supreme Court takes up only a small number of the appeals it receives.

Minns also said Hatch was writing a book about "his experiences with the legal system and his disappointment not just with the problems that he suffered but with the problems other people have suffered that he has met."

Hatch also was convicted of evading taxes on his earnings as co-host of a Boston radio show and from rental properties. He was acquitted of seven fraud charges related to a charity he planned to open for troubled youth.

AP

In this Jan. 24, 2006 file photo, Richard Hatch, who won the first "Survivor" television program, departs federal court in Providence, R.I.

Judge in R. Kelly trial orders reporter to court

CHICAGO (AP)—The judge in R. Kelly's child pornography trial has issued a new order for a Chicago Sun-Times reporter to appear in court.

Judge Vincent Gaughan (GAWN) stopped short of issuing an arrest warrant for Jim DeRogatis (day-roh-GAH'-tus). Attorneys want to ask him how he got a sex tape in 2002 that's now the center of the trial, but DeRogatis didn't come to court Tuesday.

Gaughan issued a new order for DeRogatis to appear Wednesday.

Gaughan again rejected arguments that DeRogatis' actions are privileged under the First Amendment and he shouldn't have to appear. The judge says there's no such privilege in this case because no one intends to ask DeRogatis about his work.

Kelly has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Singer R. Kelly returns to the Cook County Criminal Court Building after a break as his child pornography trial continues in Chicago on Monday, June 2, 2008.

AP

Sean Levert's widow files wrongful death lawsuit

CLEVELAND (AP)—The widow of R&B singer Sean Levert has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the county officials who were holding him in jail when he fell ill.

Levert, a member of the 1980s R&B trio LeVert and son of lead O'Jays singer Eddie Levert, died March 30th shortly after he was taken to a hospital.

His widow, Angela Lowe, filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court in Cleveland that accuses his jailers of showing disregard for his medical needs. Lowe and Levert's estate are seeking unspecified damages.

A message seeking comment was left for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason.

The county coroner has ruled that Levert, 39, died of natural causes.

Levert had just started serving a 22-month sentence for failure to pay child support.

In this May 15, 1989 file photo, Levert, the rhythm and blues pop trio of Marc Gordon, right, and brothers Gerald Levert and Sean Levert, center, is shown.

AP

Teens' visit to grandparents comes under their protest

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our parents make my sister and me go with them to visit our grandparents one Saturday a month. They live two hours away. We don't like having to waste our Saturday this way. My sister and I are 15 and 16, and we're old enough to stay home alone. When we are there, all we do is sit there bored while our parents and grandparents talk.

Our grandparents show no interest in us, even though they tell our parents how much they "love" seeing us. Our parents say our grandparents are not in good health and may not be around much longer, so one Saturday a month isn't too much to ask.

The other day Mom overheard us in our room talking about how much we hate having to go over there, and she was furious. She said we were selfish and care about no one but ourselves, and she had better not hear that kind of talk again. Please tell us what you think.

—BORED TO DEATH IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BORED TO DEATH: Sometimes when people grow older, they lose the knack of communicating with younger people. While visiting your grandparents may seem like a pain in the neck now, when you're older you may be glad that you did.

One way to bridge the generation gap would be for you and your sister to show some interest in THEM. Prepare a list of questions to ask them before you go to visit. You might be pleasantly surprised to find their answers a fascinating window on the past, and give you an insight about how your parents were raised.

Please consider what I have said. It will make visiting your grandparents less of an ordeal—and you might even learn something of value.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My long-standing boyfriend, "Peter," and I plan to be married next year. Peter's parents divorced long ago because his father was abusive. Peter told me about a specific incident in which his father pushed him down the basement stairs.

Because of a recent spiritual awakening, Peter decided to forgive his dad, but the man rejected a face-to-face reconciliation with his son. Of course, this has hurt Peter deeply, and it hurts me to see him go through it.

I had always thought that married couples should share the same last name. But I feel uncomfortable taking Peter's name, knowing that it was given to him by a man who abused him and no longer wants him as a son.

A logical solution would be for us to take his maternal grandfather's last name because he and Peter are extremely close. However, I could never ask Peter to give up his last name. Should I alone take his grandfather's name? I realize this problem may not seem important, but it carries a lot of weight with me.

—NO-NAME JANE IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR JANE: While you could never "ask" Peter to give up his last name, you should certainly talk to him about your feelings. If he has no objection, you could use his maternal grandfather's name. You could also, as many women do today, continue to use your maiden name.

Or, you two lovebirds could choose a name you both like and adopt it together. After all, to quote William Shakespeare, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

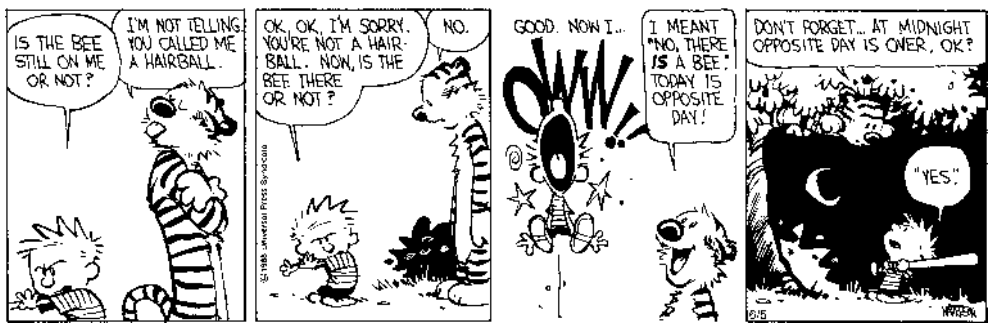
■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

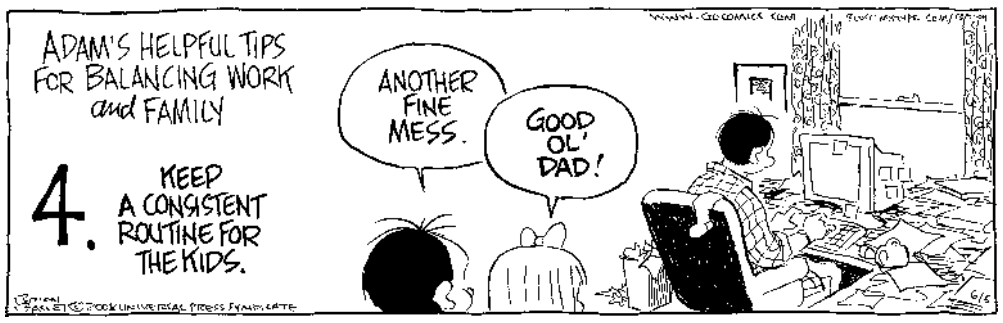

IS THE BEE STILL ON ME OR NOT?
I'M NOT TELLING. YOU CALLED ME A HAIRBALL.
OK, OK, I'M SORRY. YOU'RE NOT A HAIRBALL. NOW, IS THE BEE THERE OR NOT?
NO.
GOOD. NOW I...
I MEANT "NO, THERE IS A BEE." TODAY IS OPPOSITE DAY!
DON'T FORGET... AT MIDNIGHT OPPOSITE DAY IS OVER, OK?
"YES."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

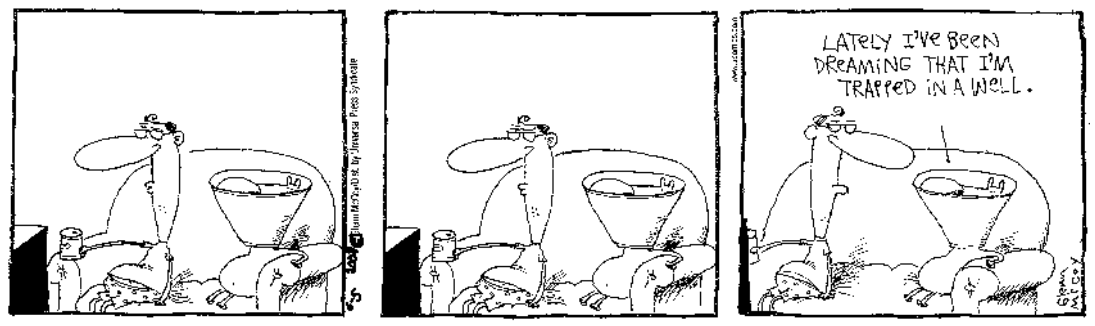
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

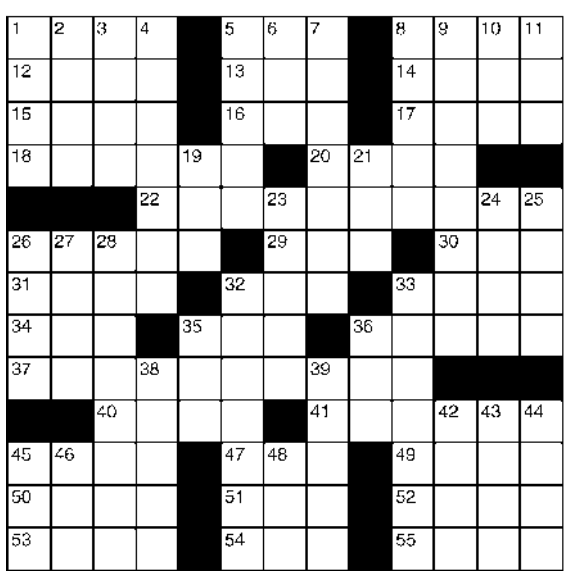
ACROSS
1 Nincompoop
5 Wire measure
8 Apportion (out)
12 Speedy steed
13 McKinley's first lady
14 Mosque VIP
15 Stitches
16 Brock of baseball
17 Grooves on
18 Boss
20 Kvetches
22 "Gently"
26 Fair of hair
29 Ancient refuge
30 Onassis, familiarly
31 Not prerecorded
32 Curious kid's query
33 Unyielding courage
34 "You — There"
35 Paulo preceder
36 Permission
37 Merciless treatment
40 Bridle strap
41 Plasma-like fluids
45 Cripple
47 Ring legend
49 Astringent
50 Destroy
51 Crib
52 Wise one
53 Carriage
54 "A mouse!"
55 Recognized

DOWN
1 Salt amount
2 Sandwich treat
3 Sunup
4 Lewd
5 Director Forman
6 Altar affirmative
7 Some let it all hang out
8 Teeny fly
9 Agent
10 Label
11 Type squares
19 Possessed
21 Fine, to NASA
23 Google alternative
24 Rainbow
25 Bygone Yugoslav leader
26 Mediocre
27 Old Italian coin
28 Dominate
32 Aspirer
33 Hazmat protection
35 Schuss
36 Firmament
38 Minion of Satan
39 Hoosegow
42 Blueprint
43 Ginormous
44 Small diving duck
45 Silent
46 Blackbird
48 Phony story

Solution time: 25 mins.

		C	A	P			T	A	M			
	F	O	U	R		J	A	M	U	P		
P	R	O	N	E		A	P	O	G	E	E	
S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	S	O	N	G
I	T	S		M	O	O	S	E		P	D	A
		S	P	O	T			F	L	E	D	
	B	R	I	T	S		B	A	R	E	D	
P	R	E	P			P	U	N	Y			
H	I	S		S	O	R	R	Y		T	E	N
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	B	R	I	D	E
		F	U	R	I	E	S		O	U	T	G	O
			E	A	R	L	S		D	D	A	Y	
			S	K	I				Y	E	N		

Yesterday's answer 6-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chad Allen, 34; Mark Wahlberg, 37; Brian McKnight, 39; Bill Moyers, 74

Happy Birthday: You will be sensitive to the comments and moves of your peers this year but you mustn't get sucked into being a follower. Trust in yourself and your abilities instead of jumping on someone else's bandwagon. The proof will be in the outcome, so work out your own ideas to your satisfaction. Your numbers are 7, 15, 18, 29, 38, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Spend time with friends or involved in an activity that will help you better yourself or your position. If you can swing it, take the day off and do something you find challenging but fun. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Talks will bring about a situation conducive to your getting ahead. You can resolve any problem that crops up by being honest. Pay back or collect old debts and you can establish a budget that works effectively for you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have a handle on what you want done, so what's the hold up? Move forward, regardless of what anyone else does or says. A change or commitment in your love relationship will positively shape your future. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Changes going on around you will make you nervous and emotional. Try to hold things together. You will probably be overreacting, so before you decide to confront someone, consider the pros and cons of your actions. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You should keep your plans under wraps for now, especially if they entail a lifestyle change or a trip. Someone you work with or for is likely to take you the wrong way if you are blunt. Love is heading your way. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Pull in favors from those you helped in the past and you can hold your position and make professional gains. Someone from your past will remind you of your dreams, hopes and wishes. Don't give in to demands. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you aren't on vacation, you should be. At least take some time out to relax. An interesting conversation may take you in a new direction. Don't give in to emotional blackmail from children or loved ones. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have to look at the big picture and step into the spotlight. Trust in yourself, not what someone else tries to lead you to believe. Fear is your downfall so face it head on. It's time to think big or go home. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be caught up in the moment, overreacting to money matters, in turmoil about business and personal partners. If you stretch the truth in dealing with others, you may have to backtrack to avoid future problems. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your mind is in overdrive. You will have everyone's attention so handle it properly. Being overly generous to impress or make up for something you did will probably work, but buying love, trust or favors will cost you later. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change regarding the way you earn your living will result in greater thoughts about what you really want to do next. A domestic service or product may be something to think about. You will do best working on your own. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick close to home where you feel safe and in control. A couple of small alterations to the way you have things set up will allow you to work more from your own residence. The less time spent with others, the better it will be for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an ideas person, who can always figure out a way to make things more presentable, comfortable or accommodating. You attract friendships but can change your mind quickly.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	4	7	6		3			
			7					1
						8		
		5	9	8				
	3	6		5		9	2	
				7	6	4		
		4						
3					1			
			5		9	6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	5	7	1	8	2	3	4
3	7	1	2	5	4	6	8	9
8	2	4	9	3	6	7	5	1
4	8	7	5	6	2	1	9	3
5	1	2	3	4	9	8	6	7
9	6	3	8	7	1	5	4	2
7	5	8	4	2	3	9	1	6
1	3	9	6	8	7	4	2	5
2	4	6	1	9	5	3	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HONDURAN CIGARS **Solution: 9 letters**

K	S	P	I	C	Y	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	H	S
V	C	C	R	O	P	S	M	S	T	U	F	F	E	D
A	S	I	D	E	T	A	V	I	T	L	U	C	A	L
L	R	N	T	R	M	G	O	H	N	T	T	E	V	E
L	W	O	O	S	N	I	E	B	U	T	Y	E	Y	I
E	R	V	M	I	U	N	U	C	R	R	M	D	E	F
Y	A	D	G	A	T	B	K	M	E	B	G	I	X	U
S	P	A	C	I	W	A	O	H	A	E	N	W	C	L
U	P	E	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	S	I	D	E	L
N	E	H	O	P	(R)	A	G	N	R	T	R	L	L	B
L	R	D	U	(O)	E	O	E	F	A	E	U	R	L	O
I	Y	N	(L)	L	S	Y	J	U	A	L	C	O	E	D
G	C	(L)	I	M	A	T	E	O	L	E	P	W	N	I
H	P	O	P	U	L	A	R	O	V	A	L	F	C	E
T	O	O	F	I	R	E	S	L	E	E	V	E	E	D

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Aging, Aroma, Authentic, Best, Climate, Corojo, Countryside, Crops, Cultivated, Curing, Embargos, Excellence, Fields, Fire, Flavor, Foot, Full-bodied, Harvest, Head, Heavy, Leaf, Leathery, Plantations, Popular, Premium, Punch, Robust, Roll, Savor, Sleeve, Spicy, Stick, Stuffed, Sunlight, Tube, Tuck, Valleys, Value, Woody, Worldwide, Wrapper

Yesterday's Answer: Columbia

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Apartment Room for Rent
2 Bedroom. $230.00. Koblerville.
Tel. # 288-0728-Yoon Won Suck

WHATZIT Solution:
On cloud nine

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1st position	**$13.00**
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These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

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Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Nadal, Djokovic set up showdown in semis

PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal's French Open quarterfinal began more than 1 1/2 hours after Novak Djokovic's did Tuesday. Which is why, after wrapping up a three-set victory, Djokovic figured his coach could head over and check out some of Nadal's match.

So much for a fresh scouting report ahead of Friday's semifinals.

Turns out Nadal was only moments away from winning 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 against Nicolas Almagro, the most lopsided men's quarterfinal at Roland Garros in the 40-year history of the Open era. Almagro's no slouch, by the way: He was seeded 19th and has won more matches on clay than anyone else this season.

"I told my coach - I think it was 6-1, 6-1, 5-1 - I told him, 'Look! Go! Go fast! See one game! Try to catch at least a game and see how it goes,'" Djokovic said. "'Maybe he'll play some bad shots.'"

Not a chance. Hard as it is to believe, Nadal is playing more relentlessly than ever, treating each point—no, each and every stroke—as though the outcome hangs in the balance.

He's now 26-0 at the French Open for his career, two victories away from becoming the first man since Bjorn Borg in 1978-81 to win the clay-court major championship four consecutive times.

Nadal has dropped a total of 25 games, the fewest ever lost through five full matches by a Grand Slam semifinalist in the Open era.

Djokovic beat 80th-ranked Ernests Gulbis 7-5, 7-6 (3), 7-5 to become only the fourth man since 1968 to reach five consecutive Grand Slam semifinals. He also earned the right to face Nadal, who is 113-2 on clay since April 2005.

A berth in Sunday's final—and Nadal's No. 2 ranking—will be on the line.

"He's been playing better and better," the No. 3-ranked Djokovic said. "But I don't want to go out there in the semis and just try my best. I don't want to do that. I want to win."

He's won only three of 10 matches with Nadal in their brief but rapidly ascendant careers, including exits from the French Open each of the past two years. Both are supremely talented, quite young—Nadal turned 22 on Tuesday; Djokovic turned 21 last month—and bent on stealing some of the prizes that otherwise would be headed for Roger Federer's trophy case.

"Anything can happen," Nadal said. "I know that if I'm not playing at 100 percent, it's going to be very difficult for me to win this match."

The top-ranked Federer plays his quarterfinal Wednesday against No. 24 Fernando Gonzalez, while No. 5 David Ferrer meets the unseeded Gael Monfils.

Nadal beat Federer at the French Open each of the past three years on his way to the title. Djokovic upset Federer at the Australian Open in January en route to his first major championship.

While Federer's No. 1 ranking is safe no matter what happens this week, Maria Sharapova will relinquish her status as the No. 1 woman. Sharapova, who took over the top spot when Justine Henin retired but lost in the fourth round in Paris, will be replaced by one of the players still in the draw: No. 2 Ana Ivanovic, No. 3 Jelena Jankovic or No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Ivanovic and Jankovic, two Serbs both seeking a first Grand Slam title, will meet in the semifinals Thursday after straightforward victories. Ivanovic beat No. 10 Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-2, and Jankovic eliminated qualifier Carla Suarez Navarro by the same score.

Schnyder was asked whether Ivanovic—who lost the French Open final to Henin last year, and the Australian Open final to Sharapova in January—is ready to win a major championship.

"She would never be able to win against Justine, but now I think she can. Definitely," Schnyder said. "I mean, she has the power, and she has the strokes."

Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion, finished off her suspended fourth-round match by beating No. 16 Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 6-3. Kuznetsova's opponent Wednesday is Kaia Kanepi, the first Estonian to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal. Wednesday's other match is No. 7 Elena Dementieva vs. No. 13 Dinara Safina, who ousted Sharapova.

While they've never played as professionals, Kanepi did beat Kuznetsova in the 2001 French Open junior final.

"It doesn't mean much now, because she's a completely different player. So (am) I," Kuznetsova said. "So it's a box of surprises probably coming."

There were very little in the way of unknowns when Djokovic and the 19-year-old Gulbis stepped on Court Suzanne Lenglen. Even though it was their first matchup at this level, they first met about seven years ago as students at a tennis academy in Germany.

Preparing to walk from the locker room, Djokovic tapped Gulbis on the side, and they traded a few words and smiles. Once play began, Djokovic tried to give his pal a tough time, but Gulbis was able to keep things interesting, thanks largely to saving 11 consecutive break points in the first set.

Not until the 12th game of the match, and Djokovic's 12th break point, did Gulbis finally crack. On Djokovic's fourth set point at 6-5, a 16-stroke exchange culminated with Gulbis stumbling a bit as he pushed a forehand into the net. Djokovic raised his arms and looked skyward, exhaling.

There was still work to be done, including overcoming an early break in the second set, and another break by Gulbis when Djokovic first served for the match. But there seemed little doubt Djokovic's record in major quarterfinals would improve to 5-1, and Gulbis' would drop to 0-1.

"He won with experience," Gulbis said. "Exactly this: He played much better than me on the important points."

Nadal was much better than Almagro on nearly every point, finishing with a remarkably low total of nine unforced errors—27 fewer than his opponent.

Which is part of the reason an established pro like Almagro managed to win only three more games against Nadal than you or I would.

"When Rafa plays like that, there is nothing you can say. Just congratulate him, wish him 'Happy Birthday,' and wish him all the best for the rest of this tournament," Almagro said. "Quite clearly, we'll have a champion for many years here at Roland Garros."

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal stretches to return the ball to Spain's Nicolas Almagro during their quarterfinal match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Tuesday June 3 , 2008.

'Pacman' given permission to work out with Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Adam "Pacman" Jones can join the Dallas Cowboys for everything but the regular season—for now. Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday he would decide by Sept. 1 whether to fully end Jones' suspension, which wiped out the entire 2007 season when he was with the Tennessee Titans. The Cowboys play their opener Sept. 7 in Cleveland.

"Commissioner Goodell told Jones that his continued participation in the NFL depends on demonstrating that he can conduct himself in a lawful and reliable manner," the league wrote in a statement. "Jones will be expected to continue the personal conduct program established for him by the NFL and the Cowboys and to avoid further adverse involvement with law enforcement."

Getting Pacman back for so long, so soon is good news for Dallas. Hours later, the club had more reason to celebrate, agreeing to a three-year contract extension with receiver Terrell Owens that's worth about $27 million, according to a person close to the negotiations who requested anonymity because the deal hadn't been announced.

Jones could be in action as soon as Tuesday, the team's next organized practice.

Jones was an elite cornerback and kick returner in his first two seasons with the Tennessee Titans, but an accumulation of arrests and legal problems—including his connection to a shooting at a Las Vegas strip club—led to his suspension without pay on April 10, 2007.

More trouble followed, including felony charges related to the strip club shooting, which left a bouncer paralyzed. Recent revelations include extortion payments to the alleged shooter, whom Jones helped police apprehend, and a $20,000 debt repaid to a Las Vegas casino after a felony theft warrant was threatened.

All told, he's been arrested six times and has been involved in 12 incidents requiring police intervention since being drafted.

The Cowboys traded draft picks for Jones in April and gave him a restructured contract that minimizes their risk. The trade includes contingency plans if Jones never plays for Dallas.

Jones and Goodell met in Atlanta on May 21, and Jones apparently said enough to help his case. It's also possible the commissioner is counting on the Cowboys and their player development staff to keep him in check. The team helped Tank Johnson return from a similar suspension last season and has successfully dealt with other troubled players.

"This limited reinstatement is a step in the process," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "Adam is aware of the things that need to be done in order to take the next step."

Pacman Jones moved to Dallas recently and already has been hanging out with teammates and working out in the area. He's also started bonding with Johnson, both knowing they are down to their last chance with the NFL.

"The important thing is getting him here and getting him acclimated," Johnson said. "I have told him you are a good kid, we know you and we're looking forward to having you on the team and we're excited about you proving everybody wrong."

The Cowboys could use another good cornerback, but they're not hanging their hopes on Jones, having spent a first-round pick on Michael Jenkins. Jenkins and fellow first-rounder Felix Jones also can handle kick returns if Pacman isn't around—or even if he is.

Basically, the team isn't getting its hopes up, considering Pacman's availability a bonus.

"If (Pacman) can come out and help us here, great," said linebacker Bradie James, the defensive captain last season. "But if he doesn't, we've got enough guys to make it happen."

Jerry Jones has even talked about using Pacman as an extra wide receiver. That's fine by Owens, who expects Pacman to be committed to staying out of trouble.

"I think now with a year out of football, he has to really put his life and career in perspective," Owens said. "I haven't seen him play offense. Obviously he has some return skills. Any time you can get a guy like him to get their hands on the ball, it's going to help your offense."

Terence Newman, the team's top cornerback, is looking forward to the help, too.

"We're all waiting for him to get here. The sooner the better," Newman said. "It will definitely be a little shock when he gets back because the speed of the game is what you're not used to. You can play basketball, can do a lot of things, but you can never simulate going against a receiver, pressing a guy and having a guy run full speed at you."

Secondary coach Dave Campo expects Jones to adapt quickly. Campo figures the biggest obstacle will be learning Dallas' terminology. Jones wasn't allowed to have a playbook while banned from the facility.

"Pretty much, coverage is coverage," Campo said. "I've looked at some tape of him and I've put a couple tapes together for him when he comes in to show him some stuff. But I saw him up close and personal in Jacksonville. He beat us single-handedly in a game ... so I know him pretty well.

Pistons fire Saunders; Dumars open to more changes

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—In the morning, the Detroit Pistons fired Flip Saunders. By the afternoon, the players were put on notice. "I'm not going to sit here and make Flip the scapegoat," president of basketball operations Joe Dumars said Tuesday. "Everybody is in play."

Dumars publicly put his entire lineup on the trading block, less than a week after the Pistons lost in the Eastern Conference final for the third straight year.

Among those available: Four players who have been together since winning the 2004 NBA title together, plus another starter who just finished his fourth season with the team.

"There are no sacred cows here," Dumars said. "You lose that sacred-cow status when you lose three straight years."

Messages seeking comment were left on Saunders' cell phone.

Saunders signed a four-year contract worth up to $26 million three years ago. His deal came less than a day after Detroit finalized terms of Larry Brown's $7 million severance package after he helped them win a title and almost repeat in his two seasons.

The Pistons averaged nearly 59 victories in three regular seasons under Saunders, who trailed only fired Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson by two wins and San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich by a victory during the span.

Saunders was 30-21 in the playoffs for the Pistons, losing in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final each year. He has coached 24 conference finals games, the most by an NBA coach since 1971 without reaching the NBA finals, according to STATS.

AP

Detroit Pistons president of basketball operations Joe Dumars talks to the media during a news conference in Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Under Saunders, Detroit became the second team in league history to lose in the round before the NBA finals three years in a row, joining the Celtics from 1953-55, according to STATS.

Saunders extended Detroit's Eastern Conference finals appearance streak to six years, the first franchise to accomplish that feat since the Los Angeles Lakers of the 1980s, after Rick Carlisle started it in his two seasons as coach.

Three starters—Chauncey Billups, Richard Hamilton, Tayshaun Prince—played for all three coaches, Rasheed Wallace was acquired in 2004 and Antonio McDyess signed in 2005.

"There are 25, 26 teams that would love to be where we are, but good has not been good enough," Dumars said. "I appreciate everything that Rick Carlisle, Larry Brown and Flip Saunders have done, but I also know they were handed some great teams.

"It's not like they had to take bad teams and make them good. The next coach is going to inherit a good team."

Michael Curry is the leading candidate to be Detroit's fifth coach in nine seasons. He was on Saunders' staff and is a former Piston.

Other candidates include Johnson and Terry Porter, another assistant last season in Detroit and a former Milwaukee Bucks coach.

"I'm going to talk to a few people this week," Dumars said. "As we normally do, we'll act quickly. This will not be a long-drawn-out process."

Dumars decided a year ago to bring back his key players as well as Saunders, while infusing energy with rookies and young reserves.

But after watching the Pistons blow a 10-point lead with 10-plus minutes left in Game 6 of the conference finals against the Boston Celtics, Dumars said he had seen enough from this group.

"We didn't get it done," Dumars said. "As I walked out of The Palace, I had a real sense of calm."

Joba shaky in first start as Toronto rolls to 9-3 win over Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Joba Chamberlain lasted just 2 1-3 innings in his first major league start and Roy Halladay held the New York Yankees in check despite some control problems of his own, leading the Toronto Blue Jays to a 9-3 victory on Tuesday.

Alex Rios extended his hitting streak against the Yankees to 24 games and David Eckstein had three RBIs for Toronto, which patiently concentrated on Chamberlain's pitch count and forced New York to use six pitchers total.

Red Sox 7, Rays 4

At Boston, Coco Crisp hit a tie-breaking double and Boston won the matchup of the American League East's top two teams as the Red Sox beat Tampa Bay even without David Ortiz.

Crisp snapped a 1-for-25 slump with the two-run double in a four-run sixth inning and Jacoby Ellsbury followed with a sacrifice fly.

Orioles 5, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Radhames Liz made a solid 2008 debut and got help from homers by Kevin Millar and Melvin Mora as Baltimore downed Minnesota.

Liz (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings for the Orioles, who snapped a nine-game losing streak to Minnesota and improved to 25-8 when scoring at least four runs in a game.

Rangers 12, Indians 7

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton and Milton Bradley hit consecutive homers to set the tone in a four-run first inning to lead Texas over Cleveland.

Hamilton went deep in his career-high fourth straight game one out after Ian Kinsler led off with a single to extend his career-best hitting streak to 18 games. Hamilton's two-run drive gave him 17 homers and 67 RBIs, tops in the AL in both categories.

White Sox 9, Royals 5

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin, A.J. Pierzynski, Nick Swisher and Alexei Ramirez homered and Chicago beat Kansas City and Zack Greinke.

Gavin Floyd (6-3), allowed four runs—two earned—and six hits in seven innings, including Mark Teahen's two-run homer in the seventh.

Phillies 3, Reds 2

At Philadelphia, Pat Burrell hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, Adam Eaton pitched 6 2-3 impressive innings and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Ken Griffey Jr. walked as a pinch-hitter in the eighth inning to remain one shy of 600 home runs. Griffey wasn't in the Reds' lineup for the second straight game because of general soreness. He's been bothered by a sore left knee, though he could return Wednesday.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones hit a three-run homer and Greg Norton came through with a two-run double in the eighth inning that gave the Atlanta another come-from-behind victory.

The Braves actually won a one-run game, improving their mark in those contests to 3-16, despite two more homers by Florida's slugging second baseman, Dan Uggla.

Astros 2, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Lance Berkman and Miguel Tejada doubled in runs, Wandy Rodriguez pitched six shutout innings in his second start after coming off the disabled list, and Houston blanked Pittsburgh to end a five-game losing streak.

Chris Sampson, Doug Brocail and Jose Valverde finished up the five-hitter with an inning each, with Valverde getting his 16th save. Kaz Matsui went 4-for-4 with a sacrifice bunt and scored both Astros runs.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 1

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a two-run home run to ruin a memorable night for Arizona's Randy Johnson.

Johnson (4-2) broke a tie with Roger Clemens to take sole possession of second place on baseball's career strikeout list in the first inning when he fanned Mike Cameron. That gave the Big Unit 4,673 strikeouts, still far behind Nolan Ryan's 5,714.

Johnson struck out eight through five innings.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 0

At Los Angeles, Jeff Francis outpitched longtime Colorado nemesis Brad Penny and thge Rockies snapped an eight-game losing streak, beating Los Angeles in a game that was punctuated by a bench-clearing brawl.

Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp struck out on a pitch in the dirt from Taylor Buchholz for the third out in the bottom of the eighth inning, and the ball rolled a few feet to the right of catcher Yorvit Torrealba, who accidentally made contact with Kemp from behind before picking up the ball and tagging him lightly in the chest.

Mets 9, Giants 6

At San Francisco, Pedro Martinez came off the disabled list to make his second 2008 start for New York and got a win over San Francisco, more than two months after leaving his first start of the year April 1 with a hamstring injury.

Martinez (1-0) even hit a pair of singles and drove in a run to help his cause and boost his line, which read: six innings, seven hits, three runs, three walks and three strikeouts on 109 pitches.

Cardinals 6, Nationals 1

At Washington, The St. Louis Cardinals faced more resistance from Mother Nature than from the Washington Nationals, enduring more than 2 1/2 hours of delays before finishing off a victory.

A miscue-filled, four-run first-inning, highlighted by Yadier Molina's three-run homer, was all the Cardinals needed against a Nationals team whose inept hitting and defense were mercifully interrupted twice by a massive storm over the nation's capital.

Cubs 9, Padres 6

At San Diego, Alfonso Soriano hit a three-run homer and Mark DeRosa added a two-run shot to lead Chicago over San Diego for its ninth straight win.

The Cubs also got a solo homer from rookie Geovany Soto as they battered Padres' pitchers for the second straight night. Chicago, which had 14 hits in Monday night's 7-6 win, had 11 hits.

Prosecutors say disgraced NBA referee deserves break

NEW YORK (AP)—Just before an NBA game on Dec. 26, 2006, Tim Donaghy overheard an official scorekeeper say that one of the teams playing that night, the Memphis Grizzlies, was "all banged up" with injuries.

The passing remark prompted the veteran referee to pick up the phone.

Donaghy secretly called a co-conspirator in a gambling scheme to recommend betting on the opponent, the Washington Wizards. The Wizards won, 116-101, easily beating the spread.

Prosecutors detailed the inside tip in a letter unsealed Tuesday in federal court in Brooklyn, where the veteran referee pleaded guilty last year to felony charges alleging he took cash payoffs from gamblers and bet on games himself.

In the letter, dated May 8, prosecutors asked a judge to consider giving Donaghy a break on his sentence to reward his "substantial assistance" in an investigation that resulted in the indictment and guilty pleas of a professional gambler and a middleman, both former high school classmates of the referee.

Prosecutors say Donaghy faces up to 33 months in prison at sentencing on July 14. His attorney has asked for probation.

The letter "confirms our position that Tim has been entirely truthful and credible," the defense lawyer, John Lauro, said Tuesday in a statement.

Lauro criticized the U.S. Attorney's office for giving Donaghy's two co-defendants plea deals that could result in far less prison time than his client, saying, "The prosecutorial decisions made in this case simply make no sense."

The attorney also has suggested prosecutors shut down the probe despite Donaghy's assertions that NBA corruption ran deeper—something the league denies. The U.S. attorney's office said Tuesday it has no comment.

The government's letter credited Donaghy, an NBA ref since 1994, with voluntarily contacting prosecutors and offering to cooperate before he'd been charged in the scandal. During four closed-door meetings before his guilty plea, he "fully acknowledged his criminal conduct and provided significant information about the participation of other individuals in the scheme."

Holy Cross hires ex-NMI national coach

Former CNMI National Men's and Women's Team coach Jason Higgins will now ply his trade at the College of Holy Cross after the Division I school hired him as its assistant coach.

According to the website of CBS College Sports, Holy Cross head coach Elvis Comrie and athletic director Richard M. Regan, Jr. recently announced the hiring of Higgins as its new assistant men's soccer coach.

The report said Higgins joins the Crusaders after spending last year as the head coach of the Northern Mariana Islands men's and women's national teams. He directed all aspects of the Commonwealth's soccer federation, and coached the men's and women's teams to their first international competition.

Higgins

During the 2005 and 2006 seasons, Higgins was an assistant coach for Southern Methodist University.

The Mustangs were ranked in the Top 10 in the nation during both of his seasons, posting an overall record of 31-8-7 and advancing to the 2005 NCAA semifinals.

Before serving as an assistant coach at Southern Methodist, Higgins was the assistant coach at the University of Dayton in 2004, with the Flyers posting an 11-7-1 record. He also spent one year at Rutgers in 2003, with the Scarlet Knights going 11-7-4.

Higgins was the head coach at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, during the 2001 and 2002 seasons. His 2002 team went 10-5-2, to post the third largest turnaround in the nation, in addition to ranking in the Top 20 in the country in scoring.

Higgins began his coaching career as an assistant at Springfield College in 1999 and 2000, after playing for the Pride from 1995-1998. He earned both his bachelor's degree (1999) and master's degree (2001) from Springfield. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Red Bull gets back on track, staves off Caguioa-less Ginebra

MANILA, Philippines—With one player sitting it out due to injury and an ex-Red Bull star giving him fits, coach Yeng Guiao had every reason to be worried.

Good thing there was enough of a boost from a newcomer and a tested import that enabled Guiao and his Barakos to escape with an 86-82 repeat win over Barangay Ginebra Sunday that snapped them out of an alarming skid in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Adam Parada scored 20 points and had 23 rebounds, his fourth 20-20 game in the conference, while rookie Jojo Duncil, usually used only as a reliever, proved he could be a star on his own right by featuring in a crucial third quarter breakaway by Red Bull.

After surviving the scare of losing as much as a 15-point lead, Red Bull had gained enough poise and momentum to fend off Barangay Ginebra's comeback bids in the

fourth period, breaking the Barakos out of a three-game slide and improving their win-loss record to 8-5.

"It feels good to break a losing streak," said Guiao, whose team has not had such a losing skein since the 2006 Philippine Cup eliminations."I guess we just wanted this game a lot more because the losing has been getting to us."

Duncil went into the game averaging just 5.7 points a game and far surpassed that with 13 coming in the third period alone. All of those came after the man he usually relieves, Cyrus Baguio, drained back-to-back treys to make it a 51-39 count from a mere 41-37 edge at the half.

Those hits enabled the Barakos to maintain leads hovering in the 12-point area and go to the fourth period with a 72-58 cushion. The boost provided by the former UST star was not lost on Guiao.

"Slowly, we're trying to get him into his confidence. He has the kind of character to shine and play for this team," said Guiao.

"Ang character niya is really terno sa Red Bull. He plays hard, walang ere, he's got skills, heart, exactly what we want. He's also giving Cyrus a lot of pressure off his shoulders."

He also cited a bit of luck since forward Michael Hrabak was sidelined by back spasms.

Good thing Barangay Ginebra star Mark Caguioa, the conference's top local scorer, was also unable to play due to tendinitis in his right knee tendinitis, taking away the latter's average of 23.8 ppg out of the equation.

But there was still ex-Barako Junthy Valenzuela playing his former team for the first time and stepping up to hit three triples in the fourth period, the second moving Barangay Ginebra to within 79-83, still 1:05 left.

The Kings, who gamely battled back from as much as a 16-33 deficit, had the chance to move even closer after Chris Alexander blocked a Warren Ybanez drive.

Red Bull 86 – Parada 20, Duncil 18, Baguio 18, Alvarez 10, Adriano 5, Robinson 4, Pennisi 4, Najorda 2, Ybanez 2, Sharma 2, Cruz 1.

Barangay Ginebra 82 – Alexander 27, Helterbrand 18, Valenzuela 15, Tubid 12, Artadi 4, Salvacion 4, Mamaril 2, Menk 0, Crisano 0.

Quarterscores: 27-14, 41-37, 72-58, 86-82. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

REZNE

From Page 28

Tsunami Saipan head coach and Kimura father, Hiro, said the fledgling club is very much pleased about Wong's and Kimura's latest achievements.

"Tsunami Saipan is proud of its swimmers and appreciative of the community support during its first year. We attribute a lot of our swimmers' success to the support of the community and in turn the CNMI should be very proud of this new generation of record-holders," he said.

Coach Kimura, however, said he expects bigger and better things from Wong and Kimura in the following months, especially when the two participate in the Junior Olympics.

"While it is satisfying to win in the Guam [Swimming] Championships and set local records, the Tsunami Saipan swimmers have their eyes set on reaching the Junior Olympics. A day after the Guam meet they started practicing toward the goal of qualifying in the Junior Olympics later this summer," he added.

Other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who participated in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships were Daniel Villegas, Shin Kimura, and Marystar Welch.

Results of their swims, as well as the rest of Wong's and Kimura's events, will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

HEO

From Page 28

New Caledonia and is hoping to have a good debut in the ITF-sanctioned meet.

"I've been training hard for this tournament," said Heo, who is not only playing tennis regularly at PIC to prepare for the ITF event, but is also doing weight training at Gold's Gym.

"I've been training with Brett Nelson of Gold's Gym, working on flexibility, stability, and cardiovascular strength. Gold's Gym has helped me in numerous ways. It helped me become a better player," added Heo, whose hitting power doubled after a significant improvement in his upper body strength.

Aside from the tournament in New Caledonia, Heo will be leaving for Fiji this month to compete in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and in the Air Pacific Open Junior Championships. The two events in Fiji will run from June 30 to July 5.

Heo will be leading the North team in the POJC, while he will be playing against players from Australia, New Zealand, and selected East and North Pacific bets in the Open Championships.

The 16-year-old netter automatically qualified for the PJOC after a runner-up finish in the same event last year, while his other NMI teammates will be vying for slots in the regional meet through the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament on Guam this month.

Fiji's Daneric Hazelman ruled last year's boys' 18-and-under division of the POJC, beating Heo in the finals and recovering from his loss to the NMI bet in the pool play. Heo hopes to dethrone Hazelman to gain the top ranking in the POJC this year.

"I hope to do really well in Fiji. I've been working on many things at Gold's Gym and I think I've improved a lot over the months. I hope this preparation and improvement will help me get the No. 1 place," Heo said. ***(RM)***

LTB

From Page 28

style records and it is Stewart's hope that Kimball would eventually shatter those marks before she turns 13 years old.

Lester Lapuz, meanwhile, followed up her victory in last month's 6th Annual Escape from Managaha Island with splendid performances in the 400m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle where he dropped 11.01, 1:47, and 22 seconds, respectively.

Michael Moran, meanwhile, dropped eight seconds in the 400m freestyle to 5:23 as well as cut 3.1 and 1.8 seconds off his best times in the 50m and 100m breaststroke.

Stewart said Junior Pamaran had a perfect meet after the team's oldest member dropped times in all his events—the biggest of which was a two-second improvement in the 200m freestyle.

Blair Nicholls also improved his times in two events. He dropped 1.2 seconds in the 50m backstroke and then cut by two seconds his best time in his specialty, the 50m freestyle.

Stewart added that Blair also led off SSC's silver medal-winning 200m freestyle relay team with an unofficial time of 26.75 seconds.

Ten-year-old Andrew Kimball, meanwhile, shrugged off illness that forced him out of all events on Friday to come back Saturday to drop five seconds in the 400m freestyle and two seconds in the 200m freestyle.

Stewart said in addition to the new age group record in the 50m breaststroke (35.97), Staal also dropped nine seconds off his lifetime best in the 200m freestyle (2:11.95).

Staal's 100m freestyle of 58.9 was also a time drop of more than three seconds from his best. He also posted a five-second drop in the 100m breaststroke to 1:21 and improved by two seconds his 50m butterfly (31.93).

In all, SSC swimmers that had a 100 percent LTB rating during the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships were Staal (7-for-7), Martinsen (6-for-6), and Chentsova and Pamaran (5-for-5).

"More important than the medals is the improvement again of all these young competitors. I have always strived to have my teams swim at least a 70 percent Life Time Best swims during a championship meet. We came away with a 79 percent LTB performance—10 percentage points higher than the second most improved team, Guam Typhoons with 69 percent LTBs. Most teams were in the low 60s or high 50 percentile range," said Stewart.

TAISACAN

From Page 28

a triple in the second, a single in the fifth, and an inside-the-park homerun in the sixth inning.

Last week, Taiscan turned their game against the San Roque D-9ers around when he tripled in the third and fourth innings and recorded four RBIs that fueled their 14-7 win.

The Tigers, whose players sported their age in the back of their yellow uniforms, jumped the gun on their younger counterparts in the very first inning of the game Tuesday, as a base hit by Jess Mesa brought home two of his teammates and Mesa himself crossed home plate on a pass ball.

Their lead, however, proved short-lived as starting pitcher J.P. Flores settled down—giving up only one run in the next inning—and the Rangers exploded for seven runs in the bottom of the second, highlighted by designated hitter Ray Guerrero's two RBIs.

The Rangers added two more runs in the third even as the Tigers cut their deficit to 7-9 after the Rangers miscues allowed Mesa, Manny Tenorio, and Ben Duenas to head home in the fourth.

Taisacan and company retaliated with two more scores in the bottom of the fourth to make it 11-7 and then added six more in the fifth and sixth innings to guarantee that the mercy run rule would come into effect.

The win allowed Rangers to improve to 7-3 and break its tie at second place with defending champion Tanapag Falcons (6-3). The loss, meanwhile, put the Tigers deeper into the cellar with one win against nine losses.

Taisacan was again unstoppable from the batter's box, going 4-for-5 with two RBIs and the same number of runs scored.

J.R. Laniyo, meanwhile, was perfect from plate (5-for-5) and recorded two RBIs to go along with his two runs. Ray Guerrero (3-for-5), Dung Tenorio (3-for-5), Ben Tagabuel (2-for-4), John Tenorio (2-for-4), Craig Tenorio (1-for-2), and winning pitcher Flores (1-for-2) all finished .500 or better from the plate.

Starting pitcher Ben Duenas took the loss for the Tigers, who were led by the 2-for-4 performances of Manny Tenorio and Jess Mesa. Mesa also recorded the Tigers only two RBIs in the contest. Duenas also did some lifting at the plate, going 2-for-2.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	23	.603	_
Boston	36	25	.590	1/2
Toronto	32	28	.533	4
Baltimore	28	29	.491	6 1/2
New York	28	30	.483	7

Central Division

Chicago	31	26	.544	_
Minnesota	30	28	.517	1 1/2
Cleveland	26	32	.448	5 1/2
Detroit	24	34	.414	7 1/2
Kansas City	23	35	.397	8 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	36	24	.600	_
Oakland	32	27	.542	3 1/2
Texas	30	30	.500	6
Seattle	21	38	.356	14 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	35	25	.583	_
Florida	31	26	.544	2 1/2
Atlanta	31	28	.525	3 1/2
New York	29	28	.509	4 1/2
Washington	24	35	.407	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	38	21	.644	_
St. Louis	35	25	.583	3 1/2
Houston	31	28	.525	7
Milwaukee	31	28	.525	7
Cincinnati	28	31	.475	10
Pittsburgh	27	31	.466	10 1/2

West Division

Arizona	32	27	.542	_
Los Angeles	28	30	.483	3 1/2
San Francisco	25	34	.424	7
San Diego	23	37	.383	9 1/2
Colorado	21	38	.356	11

Yesterday's Games

Houston 2, Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 5, Florida 4
St. Louis 6, Washington 1
Milwaukee 7, Arizona 1
Chicago Cubs 9, San Diego 6
Colorado 3, L.A. Dodgers 0
N.Y. Mets 9, San Francisco 6
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 4
Toronto 9, N.Y. Yankees 3
Texas 12, Cleveland 7
Baltimore 5, Minnesota 3
Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 5
Oakland 5, Detroit 4, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 5, Seattle 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	9	0
Ford Rangers	7	3
Tanapag Falcons	6	3
San Roque D9ers	5	4
Koreans Dreams	5	5
Komoro	4	7
Team Kabur	2	8
O'Conner Tigers	1	9

2008 Guam Swimming Championships

Photos by DAN KIMBALL

Blair Nicholls sprints to the finish during of the events of the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Abigail Martinsen wins gold, while Victoria Chentsova gets bronze in the 400m freestyle.

Andrew Kimball closing in on a silver medal in the 400m freestyle of last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Kai Staal, center, shows off his gold medal in the 50m freestyle while being flanked by two Guam swimmers.

Michael Moran swims his leg of the silver medal-winning 200m freestyle relay.

Grace Kimball comes from behind for silver in backstroke of last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Victoria Chentsova shows good form in the 400m freestyle of last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Far left, Junior Pamaran moves some water in the 200 freestyle.

Left, Kai Staal takes it home in a fast 200m freestyle in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships in the Hagatna Pool.

Holy Cross hires ex-NMI national coach

Former CNMI National Men's and Women's Team coach Jason Higgins will now ply his trade at the College of Holy Cross after the Division I school hired him as its assistant coach.

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Sports

Nadal, Djokovic set up showdown in semis

Rafael Nadal's French Open quarterfinal began more than 1 1/2 hours after Novak Djokovic's did Tuesday. Which is why, after wrapping up a three-set victory, Djokovic figured his coach could head over and check out some of Nadal's match.

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Rezne and Kensuke break CNMI records

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong, right, and Kensuke Kimura each reset CNMI records in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships in the Hagatna Pool.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Two long-standing CNMI swimming records are no more thanks to Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

Taking part in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships held over the weekend in the Hagatna Pool, Wong and Kimura obliterated the old standards in the 100m breaststroke and 200m breaststroke, respectively.

The 17-year-old Wong won the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke but more importantly the 1:10:91 he took to complete the event shattered the CNMI national record of 1:11.69 set in 1989 by Brent Thompson.

Wong's 100m breaststroke was also a new age group record, as it thumped the 1:11.70 recorded by Justin Pierce in the same event back in 1999

With the addition of the 100m breaststroke, Wong is now in possession of five CNMI age group records.

Kimura, for his part, broke the 11-12 age group record in the 200m breaststroke by completing the event in 3:04. Keoni Ichihara held the previous record when he swam the 200m breaststroke in 3:04.84 in 1996.

Counting the 200m breaststroke, Kimura no owns seven CNMI age group records. Just last year, Kimura broke one of the oldest CNMI records set in 1980 by former Saipan and Guam swimming superstar Jonathan Sakovich.

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LTBs galore posted by SSC swimmers

DAN KIMBALL

Saipan Swim Club's Kai Staal (lane 2) and Lester Lapuz (lane 6) soar off the blocks in the 100 freestyle of last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships in the Hagatna Pool.

By MARK RABAGO
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While the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships last weekend was sort of a coming out party for Kai Staal, the new Golden Boy of local swimming was not the only CNMI swimmer that impressed in the Hagatna Pool.

In fact, the rest of the eight swimmers that SSC head coach Michael Stewart brought to Guam for the meet medaled in the competition, but more importantly for Stewart the entire team posted an amazing 79 percent improvement on lifetime bests in the events they swam in.

For instance, Stewart said Abigail Martinsen slashed an impressive 24 seconds off her 400m freestyle LTB and lapped off another nine seconds from her best in the 200m freestyle.

Stewart said that's not bad for someone who only started swimming two years ago

Victoria "Torii" Chentsova also had a quantum leap in the 400m freestyle, dropping 23 seconds, as well as a nine-second improvement in the 200m freestyle.

Stewart said Grace Kimball also came so close to setting a new CNMI in the 100m freestyle, dropping almost three seconds to 1:08, which was just a second from the record currently held by Maystar Welch.

She was also in range of the 400m, 800m, and 1,500 free-

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Taisacan hits for cycle as Rangers maul Tigers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Ford Rangers' Franco Flores crosses home plate on an RBI by Ben Tagabuel in the second inning of their game against the O'Connor Tigers in Tuesday's 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Benwachi Taisacan hit for the cycle in the Ford Rangers' 17-7 beat down of O'Conner Tigers in the resumption of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

While the scheduled load shedding at the Oleai Sports Complex pushed the Rangers-Tigers match to an 8pm start, there was no shortage of power in the Rangers game, as the Joeten Motors-sponsored team rallied from 0-3 deficit in the first inning to score a mercy rule-shortened win against the old-timers of the Tigers.

Taisacan again presided over the Rangers' victory, recording the season's first cycle after hitting a double in the first inning,

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Heo to join ITF introductory tourney in Noumea

The CNMI's top junior netter Ji Hoon Heo may have missed the tough 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open's 16-player Male Singles Challenge Invitational and Eight-Team Men's Doubles Draw, but he has several tournaments ahead of him, including an ITF Junior tournament in New Caledonia later this month.

Heo in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* said he was not among the 16 players invited to join the Guam Open, which was played at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa last week and featured players from host Guam, Korea, Japan, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

"I really wanted to go [to Guam], but sadly, they changed the rules and these did not allow me to join the tournament," said Heo, who debuted in the same event last year through its open-tournament policy and lost his late night opening match to Hawaii's Daniel Laraneas.

Heo

Korean Dylan Seong Kwan Kim won the singles competition of the Challenge, beating compatriot Min Hyeok Cho, 6-3, 6-2, in last Sunday's finale.

Instead of feeling bad because he wasn't invited to join the tournament in Guam, Heo said he is concentrating on three upcoming events this month, including the Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonia in Noumea.

The tournament in the French territory will run from June 22 to 27 and will offer ITF Junior ranking points to participants. The Noumea event is a Grade 5 ITF Junior tournament which will give 30 ranking points to the champion, 20 to the runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalists, and five to round of 16 qualifiers.

The Grade 5 event is an introduction to the ITF Junior Circuit.

Heo is excited about the tournament in

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